

TODAY
20 P

INFIDELITY: WOMEN'S SECRET WEAPON
DAY ONE of a new series
PAGES 16,17

BABY WARS

Eat out for £5
TOKEN 1 PAGE 13
40-PAGE SUPPLEMENT

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT
EVERTON DENT CHELSEA'S TITLE HOPES
PAGE 25

TODAY
20 P

Catholic's killing increases tension Adams gains fresh meeting at Downing St

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY ADAMS is to meet the Prime Minister at Downing Street for the second time today after the murder of another Roman Catholic in Ulster yesterday put further strain on the IRA ceasefire.

The Sinn Féin president asked for the meeting to express his deep opposition to the new Anglo-Irish blueprint for Northern Ireland's future. But the killing of a fourth Catholic in three weeks by loyalist death squads has lent it extra urgency.

In a separate development, former Tory ministers confirmed yesterday that they had shared the worries of Ray Seitz, the former US ambassador to London, that intelligence material sent to the White House in the early 1990s was leaked to the IRA. But they insisted nothing threatening national security had been compromised.

Police found the latest victim of loyalist violence behind the Fairhill youth club in the nationalist town of Maghera, in County Londonderry, yesterday, after receiving an anonymous call during the night.

He was identified as Fergal "Rick" McCusker, 28, a building worker who had just returned from living in America. It is believed he was confronted by his attackers at around 1.20am as he walked home from a pub, taken behind the club and shot in the head. He died in the shadow of a Catholic church. Residents heard a car screech away.

In a statement claiming responsibility, the renegade Loyalist Volunteer Force said the man was "a known republican who is engaged in an arms shipment from America". It warned of more attacks.



Adams: sees blueprint as "serious mistake"

saying: "This is not the last." Sinn Féin and friends of Mr McCusker insisted he had no connection to the republican movement.

Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness, the local MP, said loyalists were using terror against the nationalist community to force it to accept less than it was entitled to at the Stormont peace talks.

David Ervine, the leader of the loyalist Progressive Unionist Party, condemned the killing as an attempt to destabilise the peace process and wreck the IRA ceasefire. Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party's security spokesman, said the killing helped no one.

The LVF, which opposes the peace process, has killed three other Catholics and killed a dozen since its leader, Billy Wright, was murdered by republicans in the Maze prison on December 27. Elements of the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association, which has political representatives at the Stormont peace talks, are suspected of helping the LVF.

Each murder has increased pressure on the IRA to break its ceasefire and retaliate. The

latest killing came as Sinn Féin formally rejected the new blueprint, which was unveiled by the two governments last Monday. The organisation warned of "grave disquiet and enormous anger" in republican ranks.

A Sinn Féin spokesman said Mr Adams had requested the meeting with Mr Blair a week ago to argue that the blueprint was a serious mistake that had to be rectified. He and Mr McGuinness would explain that nationalists saw it as a retreat from the Government's earlier settlement plans, and a reward for Unionist intransigence and loyalist violence.

The document envisages Ireland's continued partition and does not guarantee the strong, dynamic cross-border body demanded by nationalists. It entails Dublin renouncing its territorial claim to the north, and incorporates the Unionists' "Council of the British Isles" idea which nationalists consider a ploy to dilute the cross-border body.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said Mr Adams's visit to Downing Street today should be seen as "part of the ongoing discussions between the Prime Minister and those involved in the talks process."

Mr McGuinness insisted that Sinn Féin would stay in the Stormont peace talks to argue its case. The commanding officer of paratroopers who shot dead 13 Catholic demonstrators on Bloody Sunday 26 years ago, told Channel 4 Mr Blair should not apologise for the killings. Lt Col Derek Wilford said the blame lay with politicians who ordered them into the city.

White House leaks, page 2
Leading article, page 21



An Orient-inspired dress by Alexander McQueen at the British designer's third Parisian haute couture show for Givenchy since he took over in 1996.

Electronic voting planned in election shake-up

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

ELECTRONIC and universal postal votes are being considered by ministers in a shake-up of procedures that could end the tradition of the secret vote in the ballot box.

A wide-ranging inquiry into voting arrangements has been ordered by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.

The review will include the pros and cons of automated voting — already used in a number of American states — where voters pull down a lever instead of marking an X in pencil, and which automatically counts the votes.

Moving elections from a Thursday to the weekend and using mobile polling stations will also be considered.

The way people vote in British elections will be just one area for possible change to be examined by an all-party working group to make voting easier and more attractive.

The focus of the review will be on parliamentary elections but will also include council, European and future elections for the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly.

Many politicians hold a romantic view of the trip to the polling station on election day and the thrill of the late-night count but for many people, especially young first-time voters, general and council elections are a turn-off.

George Howarth, junior Home Office Minister and chairman of the new all-party election working group, said last night: "As many people as possible — especially young people — should take part in elections. I am very keen to do all that I can to make this happen."

He also believes young people should know more about government and the

Continued on page 2, col 5

Ted Hughes on Sylvia Plath



How the Sunday papers saw Saturday's literary scoop of the decade in *The Times*:

Hughes has stunned the literary world *Observer*

Universal praise *The Sunday Telegraph*

White hot *Observer*

Hughes is 'murderer' no more *Independent on Sunday*

Poets' verdict Page 5
The Hughes-Plath wedding Page 15

Dewar warning over infighting

There was government alarm about attempts to drive a wedge between Gordon Brown and Tony Blair.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, said the relationship between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor was "the rock on which this Government stands", suggesting that undermining it could be highly damaging. Page 2

TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORDS 24, 48
LETTERS 21, 37
OBITUARIES 23
PETER RIDDELL 20
ARTS 18-19
CHESS & BRIDGE 39
COURT & SOCIAL 22
BUSINESS 43-46, 48
MIND & MATTER 16, 17
LAW REPORT 41

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 50, Belgium Bfr 100,
Canada Cdn \$50, Canada Pk \$100,
Czechia Csk 100, Denmark Dkr 100,
Finland Fmk 100, France Ffr 100,
Germany DM 100, Greece Dr 200,
Hong Kong HK\$ 100, Italy L 4,500,
Japan Yen 10,000, Korea Won 10,000,
Luxembourg Lfr 100, Malaysia RM 100,
Netherlands Gld 100, Norway Nkr 100,
Portugal Esc 200, Spain Ptas 200,
Sweden Skr 100, Switzerland Sfr 100,
Tunisia Dtn 100, USA \$ 100.



Iraq calls on 1m for holy war

FROM MICHAEL THEODOROU
IN NICOSIA

IRAQ has ordered the training of one million people in preparation for a jihad or holy war to be launched if trade sanctions are not lifted against Baghdad.

The order is part of President Saddam Hussein's attempts to rally Arab support in his confrontation with the United Nations over weapons inspections. The Iraqi leader also ordered a mobilisation of all volunteers capable of carrying weapons to prepare for possible military action by America. This follows his threat to end co-operation with weapons inspectors unless sanctions are lifted within four

months. As he issued the order, Britain's HMS *Invincible* was passing through the Suez Canal on its way to the Gulf to bolster the powerful American force already in place.

Richard Butler, the UN's chief weapons inspector, is due in Baghdad this morning for critical talks aimed at defusing the crisis. He wants to persuade Iraq to allow access to all sites and to stop attempting to dictate the composition of inspection teams.

In a defiant speech at the weekend to mark the seventh anniversary of the beginning of the Gulf War that liberated Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, Saddam gave the UN until May 20 to lift sanctions. If they

did not do so, he would carry out a demand from the Iraqi Parliament to end the arms inspections.

But diplomats in Baghdad said Mr Butler, the Australian head of the UN special commission (Unscm) could yet relieve the tension. In an attempt to lessen Iraqi hostility to UN teams which it claims are dominated by American and British members, France, Russia and China have offered to increase their participation in Unscm. Mr Butler promised to listen to Iraqi grievances "so their legitimate concerns of dignity and sovereignty can be attended to". He may also hold out the carrot of closing Iraq's nuclear file if Baghdad agrees

to open numerous sites, including presidential palaces, to inspectors.

Grave suspicions remain on Saddam's other arms programmes. There were further reports yesterday that prisoners had been tied to stakes and bombed with biological and chemical weapons. Iranian prisoners of war were said to have been killed by bacteria from a shell detonated near by and others were reportedly exposed to anthrax sprayed into a chamber while doctors watched from behind a glass screen. Two British-trained scientists are thought to be leading figures in the programme.

Iraq envoy killed, page 10

Hyundai project boosts builder

The housebuilder Wilson Connolly stands to make a £210 million profit on the back of the millions of pounds of government aid that persuaded Hyundai to build its £2 billion microchip plant in Scotland.

However, Hyundai has now shelved its plans for two factories because of the economic turmoil afflicting South-East Asia. Page 48

Singapore blow

Seagate Technology, an American computer disk-drive maker, is dismissing 1,800 Singapore employees, casting doubt on the state's boast that it would be largely unaffected by Asia's economic storms. Pages 14, 21

How cold comfort comes from a cup of coffee

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR



"Coffee. Lemsup. paracetamol..."

FORGET hot toddies: the best remedy for a cold is a cup of coffee, according to psychologists at the University of Bristol. The drink "largely eliminated the effects of having a cold", they report after experiments involving 100 volunteers. Earlier trials with vodka had failed to show any beneficial effects on mood or performance.

Dr Andrew Smith, director of the Health Psychology Research Unit, and colleagues tested the volunteers when they were healthy, then asked them to come back as soon as they caught a cold. Almost half did, and were then tested again, both before and after having a drink of either coffee, decaffeinated coffee, or fruit juice.

The volunteers were asked to rate their mood, using scales ranging, for example, from drowsy to alert, and from tense to calm. They then did two tests. The first measured simple reaction times by asking them to press a button as soon as a square appeared inside a box on a computer screen. The second showed five boxes on the screen. As squares then appeared in one, the volunteers had to press appropriate keys.

A cold reduces alertness and degrades performance in the tests. But there is no measurable effect on memory.

Cold victims and healthy controls were divided into three groups, and tested before and after having one of the three drinks. The results show that fruit juice had no beneficial effects at all on alertness or reaction time. Decaffeinated coffee did produce improvements in the tests, but

not in mood. Ordinary coffee, drunk black or white, affected both test performance and mood, restoring the unwell to the figures they had recorded when healthy. Adding sugar made no difference.

The results, reported in the *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, suggest that any hot drink may be helpful but for all-round effectiveness coffee is best. It is also possible that some of the benefits recorded in those who drank "decaf" came from a belief that it was proper coffee.

Some proprietary cold cures do contain caffeine, and the team says it would be interesting to test caffeine in that form. They suggest that it increases levels of the brain-signalling chemical noradrenaline, which is linked to alertness.

The study was supported by a grant from the coffee industry.

HOME & CONTENTS INSURANCE

BUILDINGS SUM INSURED	CONTENTS SUM INSURED	ANNUAL PREMIUM
£250,000	£50,000	£495
£500,000	£50,000	£595
£750,000	£75,000	£795
£1,000,000	£100,000	£995

Home & Legacy specialises in providing Insurance for higher value homes and contents anywhere in the UK and we will save you £100's on your premiums - these example combinations are valid for your area, and include accidental damage. We also offer monthly instalment plans and competitive premiums for fine art, antiques, jewellery, and other valuables.

MORE COVER FOR LESS
Home & Legacy offers the widest cover for the lowest premiums in the UK including accidental damage and worldwide cover for contents and valuables.

NO AREA LOADING
These premiums quoted are true for anywhere in England, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

PERSONAL, CONFIDENTIAL & EFFICIENT SERVICE
Call Robyn Harris direct on
0171 824 8224
9am - 6pm, Monday to Friday

Home Legacy
HOME & LEGACY INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED
BACKED BY THE UK'S LEADING INSURERS

Premiums quoted are valid for a period of 30 days from the date of this publication and are subject to: The home being of standard construction and free from history of subsidence or flooding; Satisfactory physical security in force at the time; Satisfactory claims experience and acceptance of risk by Insurers; Policy terms and conditions; Government Regulations; Premium Tax (currently 4%). Our minimum premium level is £495.

سكس من الإيجل

Tensions divide Labour leadership

Jill Sherman and Philip Webster on sniping between rival camps in the Government

THERE was growing alarm last night in the Government over attempts by allies of both men to drive a wedge between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, said that the relationship between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor was "the rock on which this Government stands", suggesting that any attempt to undermine it could prove highly damaging.

Mr Dewar strongly disputed allegations that Mr Blair indirectly rebuked Brown during last Thursday's Cabinet meeting and said

there was no split between the two men. But Labour insiders were still saying yesterday that the Prime Minister believed that the Chancellor had been ill-advised to co-operate with the biography of him by Paul Routledge and that he had been damaged by it.

One source claimed Mr Brown had "psychological flaws" while others said it was time for the Chancellor to stop "kidding himself" about the leadership election

more than three years ago. A Blair ally suggested that Mr Brown's advisers had "allowed their egos to run away with them". They also argued that Mr Brown's decision to allow Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, to give two interviews to Mr Routledge since the general election was a misjudgement.

They believe that the publication of the book, which claims that Mr Blair broke a pact not to stand against Mr Brown in the Labour

leadership contest in 1994, has allowed the Chancellor's enemies to attack him over other issues, such as single-parent benefits and welfare reform.

It was clear yesterday that relations between Mr Blair and Gordon Brown have become increasingly strained by the attacks. William Hague, the Tory leader, seized on the tensions to suggest that Mr Blair was "at war" with the Chancellor. Mr Blair's official spokesman insist-

ed that the Prime Minister still had the highest regard for Mr Brown and that his role in Government was very important. "People will try to drive a wedge between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown but they will fail," he said.

But confidants of Mr Blair said that it was time for Mr Brown to "grow up" and concentrate on his role. They say that he has been damaged by the episode and they have accused him of relying too

much on personal advisers who spend too much time promoting him as a political personality.

One senior supporter of Mr Blair said that Charlie Whelan, Mr Brown's press secretary, and Ed Balls, his economic adviser, had allowed "their egos to run away with them."

The ferocity of the private briefing from the Blair camp suggests that the Prime Minister himself may be losing patience over recent events. Mr Blair's decision to take charge of the welfare review is also being seen as a snub to Mr Brown.

IN BRIEF

Rowntree gives cash to Tory left wing

A political foundation that gave millions to Labour is to donate £200,000 to the Conservative Mainstream group set up by Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine to combat Tory Euroscepticism. The Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust said it feared that Labour's landslide victory was unhealthy for democracy and it wanted to help the Tories to become a more effective Opposition. Tony Blair, for the trust, said: "It is purely to support a pluralistic democratic process." The money will be paid in instalments over four years.

Selling Labour

Tony Blair is considering appointing a Labour Party chairman to spearhead political campaigning in the run-up to the next election. Whoever is appointed will take charge of party recruitment as well as "selling" government policy to the media.

Jail for bribes

MPs caught taking bribes will face up to seven years in prison under proposals to be confirmed this week by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. The new system of penalties for corruption would also extend to those who offer MPs cash for political favours.

Pollution rises

Air quality has deteriorated at many monitoring sites around the country, despite improvements in anti-pollution technologies. Levels of soot particulates, mainly from diesel engines, rose at 15 sites last year, according to Friends of the Earth.

Inquiry clash

French crash investigators dismissed criticisms from the former Deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester of the inquiry into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. John Stalker said the investigation was a secretive "botch-up" mired in bureaucracy.

Taking charge

A British detective is being sent to St Helena to run the island's police force after complaints about poor standards and the jailing of a senior policeman for burglary. Inspector Alastair Cumming, 35, is a senior investigator with British Transport Police.

Thatcher row halts a degree for Blair

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

TONY BLAIR was denied one of this year's honorary degrees at Oxford University because of an agreement more than a decade ago not to make awards to serving politicians.

Oxford's tradition of honouring graduates who become Prime Minister was suspended after controversy over a proposal to give Margaret Thatcher a degree in 1985. Dons voted against, in protest at higher-education cuts.

Although not binding on future selections, guidelines adopted after the row suggested that the only way to spare the university further embarrassment was to rule out high-profile politicians. Since then, only foreign politicians have received honorary degrees.

The proposal to honour Mr Blair came as the Government began to consider whether to continue paying tuition fees to Oxbridge colleges. Even some of his supporters were concerned that the offer of an award might have been interpreted as an attempt to influence the decision.

Successful nominations for this June include Sir Michael Aiyah, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge; the writer Margaret Atwood; the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern; and Neil McGroarty, director of the National Gallery. Mr Blair's office declined to comment.

Leading article, page 21

Major's ministers shared envoy's fear of leaks to IRA

By MICHAEL BINYON, MARTIN FLETCHER AND JILL SHERMAN

MINISTERS in John Major's Government shared the worries of the former US ambassador to London that secrets sent to the White House were leaked to the IRA, senior British and American sources said yesterday. But they claimed that nothing threatening national security had been compromised.

Government officials yesterday played down the allegations, made in a book to be published by Raymond Seitz, the former ambassador, that the White House leaked British secrets to Gerry Adams and Sinn Féin. But one former minister said that the Major Government made sure that nothing other than general information could have been handed on. "We were on our guard the moment Jean Kennedy Smith was appointed ambassador to Dublin."

A White House spokeswoman said yesterday: "We don't comment on intelligence matters but the President has full faith and confidence in Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith."

Mr Seitz, a popular ambassador who was replaced in 1994, was caught in the middle of a furious row between Washington and London when President Clinton unexpectedly granted Mr Adams a visa to the United States in 1994, overruling objections from Mr Seitz and the State

Department. In his book Mr Seitz also alleges that Mrs Smith became a "promotion agent" for Mr Adams. He says the sister of Senator Edward Kennedy was distrusted by her own staff in Dublin and penalised them for their dissent. "Too shallow to understand the past and too naïve to anticipate the future, she was an ardent IRA apologist."

Officials admitted there were suspicions that some British intelligence assessments given to Washington were finding their way to the IRA. They suspected that Nancy Soderberg and Tony Lake at the National Security Council were passing on information but did not believe the White House had ever given any high-grade intelligence to the republicans or had delib-

erately passed on sensitive information to assist their cause.

"There may have been times when they used information to put pressure on Sinn Féin to stop them from lying or doing the wrong thing," said one well-placed British source. "That doesn't mean to say stuff being handed over went into the pocket of the IRA." Information appeared to come out informally in telephone conversations and gossip.

One American official said there could have been some loose talk by ill-informed junior White House employees, or by US diplomats in Dublin who received copies of cables sent to Washington by the London embassy.

Mr Seitz, who was highly respected by Whitehall and by Britain's intelligence services, would have been fully aware that indiscreet passing of classified information to Sinn Féin could have exposed the sourcing of the intelligence.

Although the Americans have tried to separate Sinn Féin from the IRA, government ministers and the security services MI5 and MI6 have always maintained that Sinn Féin and the IRA are inextricably linked. If the intelligence services suspected a leak to Mr Adams, they would undoubtedly have recommended careful filtering of intelligence about the IRA.



Soderberg suspected of passing on secrets



Seitz: first career diplomat in 200 years to be appointed Ambassador to London

Man who raised hackles

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

RAYMOND SEITZ was so popular in Britain, where he served as American ambassador, that John Major took the unusual step of urging President Clinton to keep him on when he came to office.

But within the Clinton Administration Mr Seitz was deeply unpopular. And few American ambassadors have left office with such contempt for the administration they represented as Mr Seitz did over the sensitive question of Ireland.

Mr Seitz was the first career diplomat in 200 years to be appointed Ambassador to London, normally a post reserved for friends of the President or generous contributors to his election cam-

paign. He had served in Britain and was known for his charm, social sophistication and knowledge of British politics.

The change of Administration was a problem for both London and Washington. Mr Seitz did his best to smooth the diplomatic ripples caused by the Clinton Administration's suspicions that the Conservatives had helped the Bush campaign. Mr Clinton clearly wanted his own man in London: this led diplomats to drop heavy hints in Washington that Anglo-American relations would be strengthened by retaining Mr Seitz.

Mr Clinton did so, but relations with his embassy became strained.

He provoked rare controversy in Britain with his leaving address, in which he suggested that Britain was more value to America as an ally at the heart of the European Union than as a country standing detached from it.

After leaving the Foreign Service, he stayed on in London: the ostensible "diplomatic" reason being the difficulty of arranging the return to America of his dogs. In fact he was determined to make the most of his wide circle of friends he had entertained so elegantly at Winfield House, the official ambassador's residence in Regent's Park. He has since settled in London and sits on the boards of several businesses.

Voting

Continued from page 1
importance of voting and is to look for new ways to revamp citizenship lessons in schools to make politics and voting relevant to teenage voters.

But his aim is to make voting easier for everyone and he would like to change the present system of compiling electoral registers. At present councils canvas households once a year and they must register voters by a certain date. Mr Howarth wants to study the feasibility of a "rolling register" so that people could add their names to the list at any time in the year.

He also wants to make it easier for people away on holiday, on business, and the sick and infirm to have a vote. He believes the deadlines for registering for a postal or proxy vote are too rigid and that instead of having to register every autumn for a postal vote people should be able to make up their minds nearer the date of the election.

He is also particularly anxious to help the homeless — without a fixed address they are frequently unable to vote. One idea might be to allow the homeless to register in a particular constituency without supplying an address.

There are also serious problems facing many disabled people — even if there are mobile polling stations, usually in schools, few have facilities for wheelchair access.

Mr Howarth hopes to test the ideas for reform in a series of focus groups. He is to report to Mr Straw within a year. The groups are to debate the pros and cons of moving from a "first-past-the-post" system. Ministers are not going to examine the question of election expenses or limits for candidates until they have received the report from Lord Neill, QC, the public standards watchdog, on the future of party political funding.

We heard you wanted...

guides to make home buying easier.



Midland

The Listening Bank

Call 0800 100 129

www.midlandbank.com

Buying a home can feel like the most stressful thing you'll ever do. Midland's new guides take you through the whole process (one is written especially for first time buyers). They explain the essentials clearly and concisely — like how to calculate how much you can borrow and what insurances you need to consider.

For more detailed advice, you can talk to a mortgage specialist at any Midland Bank branch.

Call for details



or visit a branch



or cut the coupon.

For your free home buying guide, complete and return the coupon to: Midland Bank plc, FREEPOST NW1W 1502, Manchester M15 3AL.

Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss/Other (please specify) Initials Surname

House name/number Street

Town

County Postcode

Daytime tel no (inc. STD) Evening tel no (inc. STD)

Are you looking to move before Easter? ☐ Yes ☐ No. Are you a first time buyer? ☐ Yes ☐ No. Are you a Midland customer? ☐ Yes ☐ No.

If so please supply your sort code (410) ☐ ☐ ☐ I would like to be contacted by a Midland mortgage specialist. ☐ Are you happy to receive information from Midland in the future? ☐ Yes ☐ No.

THE SALE.

THE FURTHER REDUCTIONS.

FURTHER REDUCTIONS ON SOME OF THE FINEST MERCHANDISE IN THE WORLD.

Personal shoppers only. Subject to availability.

SALE OPENING HOURS:

Today to Friday 30th January, normal Harrods opening hours.

Last day Saturday 31st January, 9am to 7pm.

Harrods

Harrods Ltd., Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7XL. Telephone 0171-730 1234.

Surgeons attack legal aid in implant case

By Nick Nuttall
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

PLASTIC surgeons last night launched an angry attack on a decision to grant legal aid to a woman who claims a silicone breast implant made her baby unwell.

In a letter to the Lord Chancellor, members of the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons warn him of the dangers of pandering to "junk science". The association tells Lord Irvine of Lairg that there is no medical proof that silicone makes people ill.

It is urging the Lord Chancellor to reconsider the decision to allow Mary Bowler, 26, limited legal aid to see if she can sue the manufacturers of the implant.

Mrs Bowler, from North Walsham, Norfolk, claims that her baby daughter's chronic stomach cramps, severe skin problems and food allergies are a result of silicone poisoning. She had a single implant for medical reasons in January 1993 and breast-fed Danielle for three days after she was born 21 months ago.

Campaigners fighting to ban silicone breast implants welcomed the move and said other mothers had been inspired to apply for legal aid after making similar claims. But the letter from the surgeons, which is signed by Professor David Sharp of Bradford University and the president of the association, along with four American and Canadian experts in the field, says: "It is appalling that the people responsible for this decision did not ask whether there is any evidence. There is no scientific evidence whatsoever that silicone causes systemic disease in women who have had implants, nor that it causes problems with their babies."

About 5,000 women in Britain have breast implants every year, 3,000 of them with silicone gel implants. Up to 40 per cent of operations come after a mastectomy and the rest are cosmetic. Previous studies have shown so far that no evidence of a link has been found between implants and illness.



Blake Clay with a forkful of broccoli — one of the few foods he can eat without suffering an acute reaction. If adrenalin is not administered, he could die in minutes

Boy allergic to nearly all food

Doctors mystified by child's rare condition, writes Peter Foster

A BOY of four may have to live the rest of his life on broccoli, cauliflower, chips, bread and bananas if doctors cannot find a cure for his chronic food allergies.

Blake Clay is allergic to 95 per cent of foods, leaving him unable to eat any of the things that most children take for granted, including chocolate, sweets, peanuts and milk products. Despite carrying out hundreds of tests on the boy, doctors at Nottingham City Hospital admit they are mystified by the case, which is one of the severest in the country.

The condition is both inconvenient and dangerous. Exposure to prohibited foods can lead to Blake suffering an acute reaction, or anaphylactic shock, which causes swelling of the mouth and throat. If adrenalin is not administered quickly, the child can die within minutes. The stress of caring for such a vulnerable child was described yesterday by Blake's mother, Gail: "Sometimes it does seem like a battle, but we just take one day at a time. He can't do things which other youngsters take for granted."

"If there is a Christmas or birthday party, Blake just has to stay at home. If he touched a sandwich or was splashed by a drink, it could be lethal. I am a nervous wreck whenever he goes near the fridge."

"It is very difficult at times. On Christmas Eve, Blake said to me, 'I'll eat a piece of cheese. I'll go to see Jesus, won't I? Will you eat a piece of cheese as well, Mum, because I am scared of going on my own.' It just made me cry."

Mrs Clay and her husband, Martin, realised their son had a problem when breast-feeding brought his face up in large red blisters. When the couple tried alternative milks without success, the scale of Blake's allergies became clear.

He also suffers from epilepsy, asthma and eczema and his extremely limited diet causes subsidiary problems with his growth and bones. "At the age of three his eyes started flinching over due to the allergic reaction, and then we discovered he had septic arthritis," Mrs Clay said. "Now we find out that he has a problem with his hip, which is slowly

disintegrating. His bones are wearing away."

All these other problems have been caused because he cannot eat properly. The worry is that when he goes into hospital in the future he will be allergic to the medicine.

Muriel Stevens, the chief executive of the British Allergy Foundation, said: "Allergies can disable entire families. Parents are always having to watch children. They cannot be asked back to a friend's house for tea in case of a reaction, and often that means that brothers and sisters are also excluded."

Blake's case, though extremely rare, is not unique: according to Ms Stevens. She said there were cases

where children had to be fed directly into their stomach via tubes.

Alan Smyth, a consultant paediatrician at Nottingham City Hospital, where the child is being treated, said cases such as Blake's were highly unusual. "He is likely to be stuck with his fundamental allergies indefinitely. But one would hope that he might be able to tolerate a wider group of foods as he grows up and his immune system becomes less sensitive," he said.

His diet of chips and broccoli does not provide the range of vitamins, minerals and nutrients he needs. Dr Smyth said: "Blake's diet is supplemented with a special drink which contains all the elements of a balanced diet, including vitamins and minerals, without the proteins which cause anaphylactic reaction."

Arrests hit gang at heart of heroin traffic

By Stewart Tandler

DRUG squad officers have broken a gang operating a drugs "clearing house" that supplied heroin worth £20 million a week across the country.

After a series of raids across North London, police said yesterday that they believed the gang was at the centre of the heroin trade in Britain. Up to 100 kilograms of heroin a week was passed on to smaller drug dealers.

Detectives said that the drugs were smuggled from Turkey. The gang, which included many Turks, operated from a drugs "clearing house" in North London. Yesterday Detective Chief Inspector Jon Shatford, heading the operation, said that the raids would severely disrupt the flow of heroin into Britain. "It is difficult to imagine a more significant seizure. We believe that all the heroin coming into this country goes to this gang in North London which acts as a clearing house. Our operation has concentrated on a major Turkish criminal network."

The raids followed a surveillance operation lasting a year. Mr Shatford said: "We are still hunting more people from this gang. They are now like rats trying to jump off a sinking ship, trying to escape us."

Last Thursday homes in North and East London were raided, and 15kg of heroin and cocaine worth about £2.5 million was found. Police also seized cash and firearms.

Eight Turkish nationals have been remanded in custody by Enfield Magistrates' Court, charged with conspiracy to supply 15kg of heroin and cocaine.

Yesterday a 40-year-old Turkish man was arrested in a second raid. Police found 10kg of heroin worth £2 million and £100,000 in cash.

Crippled trawler towed through stormy seas

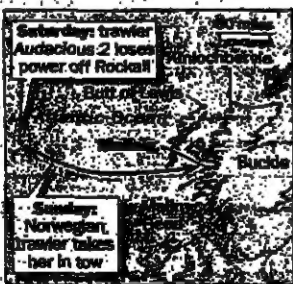
By Shirley English

A STRICKEN fishing trawler that lost power to Atlantic storms 210 miles off the Scottish coast was last night being towed by another fishing boat through mountainous seas towards the mainland.

The six crewmen on the Audacious 2 were preparing to spend a second sleepless night in total darkness, battered by 20ft waves and forceful winds. But coastguards said their situation was no longer life-threatening, providing the tow-rope held.

The 27-metre trawler had been drifting helplessly for 18 hours in stormy seas 19 miles off Rockall, a rocky outcrop 200 miles off the Outer Hebrides. At lunchtime yesterday a Norwegian fishing vessel, Aarsheim Senior, finally managed to attach a towline. Earlier rescue attempts by The Grove, an Irish trawler, had failed because the ropes kept snapping.

Last night the crippled trawler, which is registered in Buckie, Banffshire, was being towed at about three knots towards the port of Mallaig on the west coast of Scotland. A coastguard spokesman said that unless the appalling weather conditions improved the



Journey could take up to three days.

A coastguard spokesman said yesterday afternoon: "The Aarsheim Senior managed to get a tow-line aboard and so far it is holding and they are progressing well. Their estimated time of arrival cannot be predicted because of the weather."

"They are going to the Butt of Lewis first and assess what to do once they get there. The weather is still pretty horrendous although it's not as bad as last night."

Clyde Coastguard worked closely with the Irish Marine Rescue station at Malin Head in Co Donegal to co-ordinate the operation.

Audacious 2 suffered a complete breakdown on Saturday when the engine room flooded, leaving the boat without power and lighting. The

skipper managed to send out a mayday that was picked up by The Grove but then had to use stand-by radio batteries to maintain contact with other vessels in the area. Nobody was injured.

The Audacious 2 crew stemmed the flow of water and sealed off the engine room on Saturday and remained adrift in the Atlantic with The Grove and the Aarsheim Senior staying near by in case of emergency.

The Grove was said to be accompanying both trawlers last night as a precautionary measure but an RAF Sea King helicopter that had been scrambled to airlift the crew returned to base.

Meanwhile a New Zealand fisherman was missing, presumed dead last night after an unsuccessful air-sea search off the Butt of Lewis, in the Outer Hebrides. Damon Woods, 25, from Auckland, disappeared on Friday after diving off a crab fishing boat, called Our Hazel, to try to free a fouled propeller. Lifeboats, a rescue helicopter and diving teams failed to find any trace of him.

Also in difficulty was a 70 ft dive boat, Chalice, which had a fouled propeller north of Kinlochbervie. Four people were said to be on board.

Child dies as dressing gown snags on his bunk

By a Correspondent

A BOY aged nine was found hanging with a dressing gown cord in his bedroom. It is thought that the cord may have become entangled on his bunk bed.

Police said that the death of Dale Clough was being treated as accidental. An ambulance crew were called to his home in a block of flats at Plymouth, Devon, on Saturday night, but they were unable to revive him. A family friend suffered leg injuries when he was knocked down by a car running to summon help.

John Lynch, the boy's head teacher at High Street primary school, said: "He was a lovely, good-natured boy, in many ways an ideal pupil. He was never in trouble and always sympathetic to the needs of others. He will be deeply missed." Pupils laid flowers at the school, where Dale was a member of the country dance team.

Police said that the boy's parents, Wayne and Karen, were distraught. He had a younger brother, seven, and twin sisters aged 5 months.

Sunderland signs up Romeo and Juliet

By Michael Horsnell

EIGHT years after Pavarotti started the trend with *Nessun dorma*, classical music has struck another unlikely chord with football fans.

Sunderland supporters have become passionate about Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, which has replaced the old Z-Cars anthem, the closest the club used to come to classical appreciation.

When the red and whites run onto the pitch these days to the *Dance of the Knights* from Act 1, Scene 2 of the Soviet composer's ballet, the tears in the fans' eyes are said to be as plentiful as Paul Gascoigne at Italia 90.

Trophies have eluded the Nationwide League first division club for a quarter of a

century, but the move from its Roker Park ground to the "Stadium of Light" has been accompanied by new sensitivities. Fans, who previously did not know the maestro's *Love for Three Oranges* from a bowl of fruit, have been so taken by the new anthem — a favourite of the club chairman Bob Murray — that local record shops have reported a tenfold increase in demand for classical music.

John Foster, who runs the public address system at the ground, said: "When the fans hear Prokofiev, they go mad. It's a very moving piece of music and sets the stadium off so well. When we play it the whole place seems to take off."

It combines anticipation



Culture-vulture: a Sunderland FC fan

and excitement and makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. Z-Cars belonged to Roker Park. It was time to move on."

Joanna Howe, of Our Price

record store in the city centre, said: "We have ordered extra copies. We didn't have a clue what they were on about at first — but we do now."

Pavarotti's rendition of *Nessun dorma* from Puccini's *Turandot* — for the BBC's World Cup coverage in 1990 — exposed some soccer fans to opera music for the first time. It was followed by Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* as the music for the BBC's coverage of Euro 96 — despite criticism that it was a German fanfare.

Old habits die hard, however. A cult song celebrating the joys of eating meat pies at Oldham Athletic football ground is sweeping the terraces and is threatening to become the people's choice as England's unofficial World Cup anthem in France.

You can never have too much Vogue



Free with February Vogue
36-page Catwalk Report on the trends about to break

If it's in Vogue, it's in vogue

Dieters may do better by praying than weighing

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

DIETING may be a sin, says a theological study. It suggests that people could find more happiness if they focused on spirituality rather than calorie-counting, and might still lose weight as well.

The study of the "theology of dieting", by a former weight-loss consultant who is now training for the Anglican priesthood, says that women have been forced to focus on food as part of their self-image. Lisa Battye, married with four children, said that, even within the history of the Church, young women who died needlessly by fasting had been regarded as saints.

She had the idea for her MA thesis in social and pastoral theology at Manchester University after working with groups of women trying to lose weight. The breakthrough came when a star pupil, who lost 2½ stone, thanked her at the end of a course, and returned all the low-calorie products she had bought. The woman had achieved weight loss not with the products, but through the group's support.

"I began to be aware of how

women were using food to meet other needs," she said. "Their body image was determining the way they valued themselves. I realised there was a huge industry based on encouraging women to work on themselves and change their bodies, rather than encouraging them to change the world around them."

"There is a very strong sense among evangelical Christians that it is wrong, evil, to be fat; that fat people must be very weak-willed; that they are sinful. I asked the question of

whether we were created by God to be an average size, to be the ideal weight put out by Weight Watchers. If we were created in God's image, and God is as multi-faceted as I believe, then we should expect there to be lots of different shapes and sizes of people. And if God created each of us to be a given size, it is conceivable possible that to diet could be against God's will, and could be sinful."

Her study suggests that dieting is a "social disease" and the only effective cure is to

address the issue theologically. "I would like to see more women realising some of the things I have found out, because it has liberated me from my concerns about being overweight." She was not the so-called ideal weight, "but I became happy somehow as soon as I understood it through Christian eyes."

She would like to see all men and women who believe themselves to be overweight get in touch with their spiritual sides and identify this with their physical bodies. "It would not necessarily make them thin, but their dieting problems would be over."

She cites the mystic St Catherine of Siena as an anorexic: "It earned her tremendous regard for holiness. That persists now. We see how well people are regarded when they lose a lot of weight."

The study is one of 4,000 highlighted in a new database of contemporary theological research, to allow people in the pews to be in touch with developments in academia that might help them to develop their spirituality.



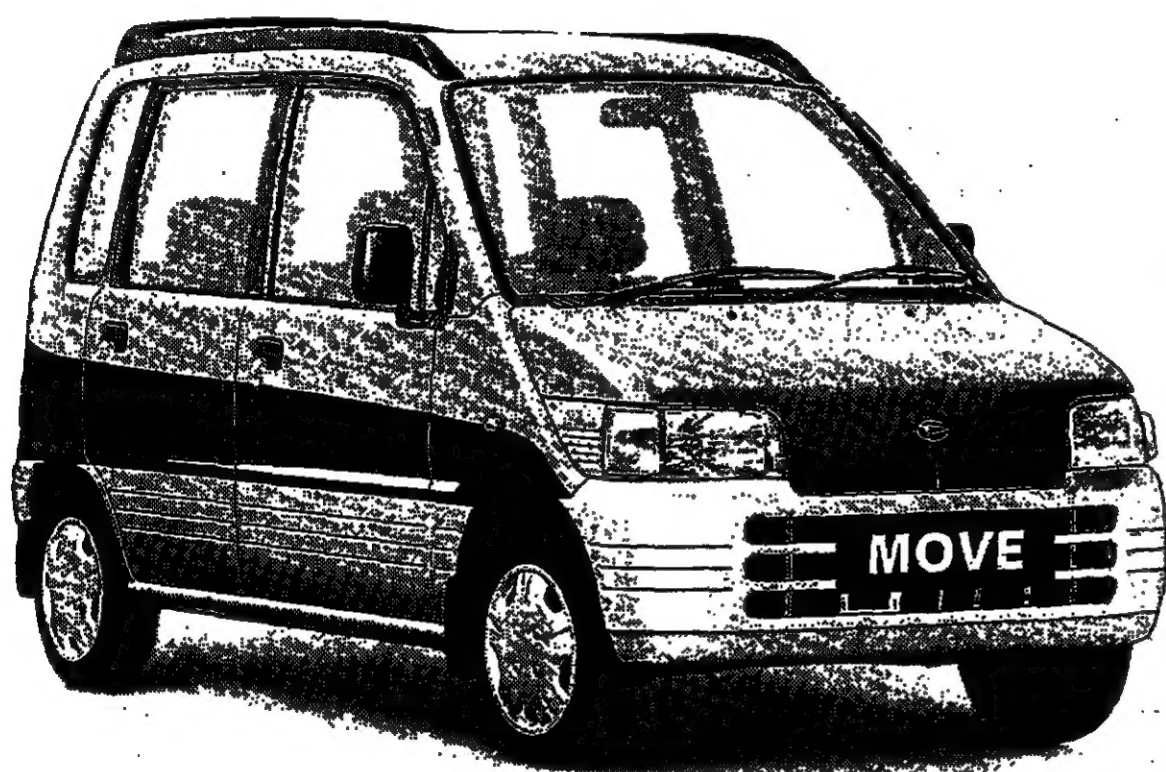
Peter Hodgekinson, a sculptor, examines the boot on a life-size model of his statue of footballing hero Sir Tom Finney, which he hopes will stand at the entrance to the new national soccer museum in Preston, Lancashire

SLIMMING FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Many slimming meals contravene EU laws soon to be implemented in Britain (Nick Nuttall writes). A Food Commission survey of seven diet products found:

- Crunch and Slim bars provide 44 per cent of their calories from fat. Only 30 per cent will be permitted.
- Both Nutraslim and Thigh and Hip Slim have fewer than the 200 kcal per serving the law will require.
- Crunch and Slim, Slim-Fast ready-to-drink and Complan all contain too little protein.
- Three of the seven products failed to provide adequate levels of vitamins and minerals.
- Six of the products make claims about speed of or amount of weight loss, which will be forbidden.

One little one.



Five hundred big ones.

The Daihatsu Move+ £8,200 on the road less

£500 Cash back*

The Daihatsu Move. Unique tall body design, driver's airbag, 5 doors, side impact bars and 4 seats which fully recline to make a double bed. All this plus 53.3 miles per gallon, a 3 year unlimited mileage warranty as standard and £500 cash back.

To take advantage of this great deal and fix a test drive, call 0800 618 618 now. £500 says you won't regret it.

FROM £139 PER MONTH*			
(typical example - Daihatsu Move+ £8,200 On The Road)			
On The Road Price	Less £500 Cash back	Deposit**	First monthly payment***
£8,200	£7,700	£1,500	£199
Followed by 35 monthly payments	Followed by final payment	Total amount payable	APR
£139	£3,270	£5,834	15.4%

*Example includes a customer cash back of £500 which is signed over to the dealer. **Your deposit is payable on completion of the finance agreement. ***A £60 acceptance fee is included in the first payment. The figures are based on an agreed contract mileage of 6,000 miles pa.

THE MOVE

CLEVER CARS FROM JAPAN

Price correct at time of going to press and includes number plates, delivery and 12 months' road fund licence. Customer cash back offer available until 31/12/98. Fuel Economy, Urban cycle 39.7mpg/extra urban cycle 53.3mpg/combined cycle 46.0mpg. Applicants for credit must be at least 18 and a UK resident (inc. Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Credit facilities are provided, subject to status, by Indirect Finance Services Ltd., 11/15 House, City Road, Chester, CH99 3AN. Written quotations on request, a guarantor may be required. The APR will vary depending on the cost of the vehicle, deposit, length of agreement and agreed contract mileage. If you exceed the agreed contract mileage there will be an excess charge of 8p per mile. You will also be liable to pay for any accidental damage to the vehicle or excess wear & tear, with regard to its age and mileage.

New laws to silence the road rowdies

By KEVIN EASON

DRIVERS of cars equipped with high-powered sound equipment that thumps out music at deafening levels could face spot fines of up to £100 under an extension of noise pollution laws.

The "boom boxes", favoured mainly by young drivers, cost as little as £100 but generate between 120 and 160 decibels — 20 decibels more than the noisiest nightclub or a jet aircraft on take-off.

Offenders have so far managed to slip through a loophole in the law. Environmental health officers are unable to prevent the noise because they cannot stop cars on the move, while police say there is no offence that allows them to force drivers to turn the music down or switch it off.

Under new proposals to be disclosed by ministers in the spring, police will be empowered to pull over the worst offenders and issue a fixed penalty notice, with an automatic fine of between £60 and £100. But they are unlikely to go as far as France, where car stereos are limited to a maximum 100 decibels, or Germany, which is considering imposing a limit of 90 decibels.

Call to curb fees paid to televise big matches

By CAROL MIDDLEY

THE Government is being urged to appoint a sports broadcasting regulator to cap the amount of money paid to televise Premier League football matches and other key sporting events.

In a report published today, Demos, the independent think-tank, says the move would limit the "exorbitant" wages paid to sportsmen such as the footballer Alan Shearer — who earns £30,000 a week — and "give sport back to the fans".

Professor Julian Le Grand, from the London School of Economics, and Bill New, a researcher, said the sporting bodies had a monopoly that had been used to maximise profits to the detriment of fans. The advent of satellite sports channels, mainly Sky Sport, had put huge amounts of funding into sports such as football, cricket and rugby but had decreased the accessibility of viewing to some fans.

Professor Le Grand said the growing power of BSkyB, of which News International, the subsidiary of the News Corporation that owns The Times, owns 40 per cent, had massively increased the amounts charged by the sporting providers.

SWIFTCALL 0800 769 0800

TALK IS CHEAP!

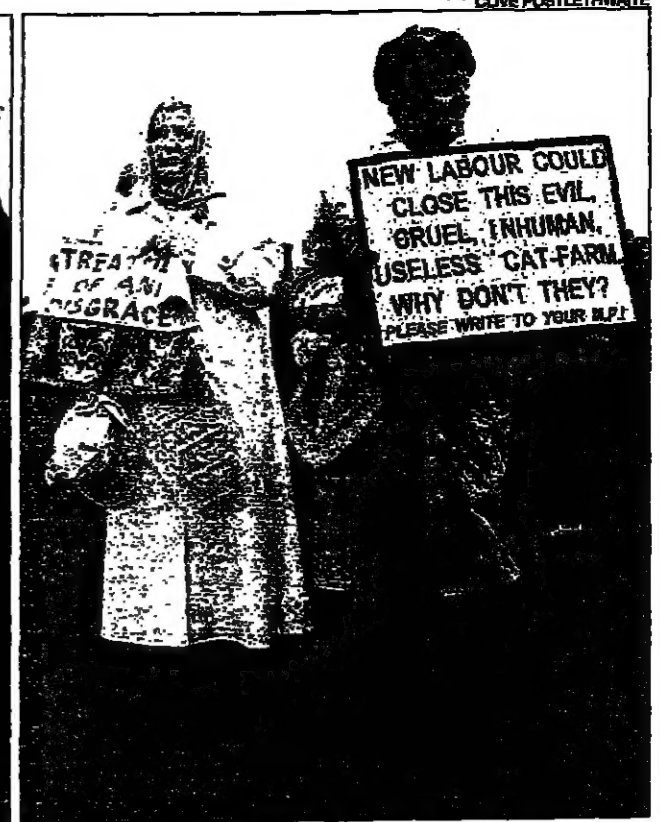


low cost international calls

Calls to	Swiftcall	B.T.	SAVE
USA	7p	Vs 24p	71%
India	45p	Vs £1.20	62%
Ireland	11p	Vs 22p	50%
Japan	18p	Vs 77p	76%
OZ/NZ	18p	Vs 49p	63%
Hong Kong	27p	Vs 58p	53%
Nigeria	72p	Vs £1.05	31%

Call us today free on 0800 769 0800 for details on fantastic savings to hundreds of other destinations and how to open your pre-paid account.





Police turned out in force yesterday at a demonstration against a farm in Witney, Oxfordshire, that breeds cats for vivisection. More than 350 activists turned up after the protest was advertised on the Internet.

Critics unite to praise Hughes masterpiece

By MARK HENDERSON

THE new collection of poems by Ted Hughes, dealing with his troubled relationship with Sylvia Plath, has confirmed the Poet Laureate's place as one of the great figures in English literature, leading British and Irish poets said yesterday.

The critics, who first saw the new poems when *The Times* began serialising the work on Saturday, said that Hughes would be remembered as a poet in the class of Blake, Keats, Hardy and Auden. The new collection, *Birthday Letters*, ought also to rehabilitate his reputation among those who blamed him for Plath's suicide in 1963, they said.

The Irish poet Tom Paulin said the collection was one of the finest of the 20th century and an eloquent answer to his critics. "It will bolster his reputation as one of our most important poets," he said yesterday. "Along with *Moor-town Elegies*, I think it will be regarded as his most important work."

"Hughes's admirers will

feel that here is someone emerging from a tragic silence. It is definitive, and I very much hope it will silence all his detractors. It's a knock-out volume, absolutely staggering."

Christopher Reid, a poet and Hughes's editor at Faber and Faber, said the Poet Laureate had produced "one of the great works. He is the greatest English poet of this part of the century," he said.



Fenton: praised quality of Hughes's writing

"Auden holds that position in the first half of the century, and in the second half Ted then takes over the role."

James Fenton, Professor of Poetry at Oxford University, said: "If you look at what he has done recently, there is the well-received translation of Ovid, as well as his very interesting anthology of poems to learn by heart. He is working away at a tremendous rate and producing work of the highest quality, and this collection must add to his already high status. For most poets the feeling is, 'Good on him.'"

The collection would shed valuable light on Hughes's relationship with Plath, Fenton said. "There is great excitement about this work, which has been kept so carefully secret. The content is obviously very interesting."

"One or two poets have had the ambition for a long time to write a poem a part of the interest of which would be content. People would read that poem to find out what the

information in it was. Hughes has succeeded in doing this. 'Everybody is fascinated to see what he felt. Content in itself doesn't guarantee the success of the poem, but content like this doesn't do much harm. What is striking is the intensity with which he still comes to the subject.'"

Paulin added that he had been struck by the honesty and danger of the poems. "It's got that tragic kind of feeling, like you're walking a tightrope as you're reading all the poems. It is incredibly intense, there is a tremendous sense of risk and danger and impending disaster."

The poems also have a visionary quality that remind me of Stanley Spencer. There is a mystical humanism about them."

"There is a medieval quality, a claustrophobia of fate and destiny and being trapped, of chances having been missed. It has great authenticity."

Today's extracts, page 15

Charges for pilot over getaway by Asil Nadir

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A PILOT was charged yesterday with helping Asil Nadir, former head of the Polly Peck empire, to jump bail and flee from £30 million fraud charges five years ago.

Peter Dimond, 56, a self-employed businessman, is due to appear at Bow Street magistrates' court today. He is accused of perverting the course of justice "in relation to the removal of Asil Nadir from this country".

Mr Dimond, a former car dealer, who was formerly from Petersfield, Hampshire, but has been living in Northern Cyprus, faces up to five years in jail if he is charged and convicted.

Mr Nadir built up Polly Peck International from a small fruit trading business. It was one of Europe's biggest conglomerates until its collapse in 1990 with debts of £1.3 billion. Mr Nadir was on £3.5 million bail and awaiting trial on theft and false accounting charges when he fled Britain on May 4, 1993.

Bill 'will let privacy cases go to court'

Frances Gibb

reports on
concerns
about the impact
of human rights
legislation

CONCERNS in the media about the creation of a privacy law were fuelled this weekend when a leading constitutional lawyer gave warning that people would use the courts rather than the Press Complaints Commission to pursue grievances on the subject. The concerns arise from the Human Rights Bill whereby the European Convention on Human Rights is to be incorporated into domestic law.

Sir William Wade took issue with the Lord Chancellor's view that the courts would leave it to the commission to act as the main authority for dealing with privacy disputes. His comments, made to a conference of judges and lawyers held by Cambridge University's Centre for Public Law, will further media fears that the Bill will lead to a privacy right being developed by the courts.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, has said that the courts would "have only to intervene if self-regulation did not adequately secure compliance with the convention". But Sir William said: "It is easy to see that the 'little man' may prefer to complain to the PCC and so save the expense of going to law. But what of the bigger man, perhaps with the

bigger reputation, who may wish to go to the court for the same of its more powerful remedies?"

Others, such as David Pannick QC, a leading administrative law silk, had suggested that the courts would recognise that in all but the most extreme circumstances it was consistent to leave privacy questions to the relevant specialist body. But Sir William said: "The PCC can neither issue injunctions nor award compensation. Nor can a number of other bodies to which similar arguments apply, such as the Broadcasting Standards Commission and the Advertising Standards Authority."

Sir William's paper questioned whether — if a news-

paper committed "an outrageous invasion of privacy" — the European Court of Human Rights would accept a complaint to the PCC as the "effective remedy" before a national authority "as required under the convention."

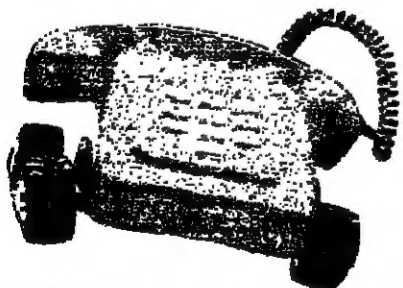
"If the victim went to the court in England and asserted his Article Eight right to respect for privacy he could be awarded damages for the outrage and perhaps an injunction to prohibit its repetition," he said.

"The court's armament is so manifestly superior to the PCC's that the victim may naturally prefer to the court for legal remedies."

"Only if the PCC can itself offer equally effective remedies by bringing pressure to bear on the offending newspaper is it likely to satisfy the European Court." This seemed far from being the case at present, Sir William said.

Sir William also said there needed to be clarification over the scope of the Bill. The Government had indicated that it could cover only public authorities or the public acts of bodies which have public and private sector functions. But Sir William says this will lead to illogicalities.

For cheaper use one of



DIRECT LINE

Call us on 0113 292 7194

Please quote ref: 310

- Save up to 30% on home insurance
- Phone us or fill in the coupon for a no obligation quote
- No hassle claims service
- Approved by all major mortgage providers
- Save on both buildings and contents

Please send me an estimate for Buildings ☐ Contents ☐

When does your current policy expire? Buildings _____ Contents _____

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss _____ Initials _____ Surname _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel N° _____ Occupation _____

Type of property: House ☐ Bungalow ☐ Maisonette ☐ Flat ☐ N° of bedrooms _____

Is it? Detached ☐ Semi-Detached ☐ Terraced ☐ End of Terrace ☐

When was the property built? pre 1837 ☐ 1837-1919 ☐ 1920-1945 ☐ 1946-1979 ☐ 1980 onwards ☐

Does your property include a converted loft? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, how many extra storeys? N° _____

Is your property more than 50% double-glazed? Yes ☐ No ☐

Does your property have a detached garage? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, how many single garages? _____ Double garages? _____

Is your home occupied 9am-5pm daily? Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you a member of a registered Neighbourhood Watch Scheme? Yes ☐ No ☐

Does your property have an alarm system which is annually maintained under a service contract? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is it maintained by a member of N.A.C.O.S.S.? Yes ☐ No ☐

Who is your property currently insured with? Buildings _____ Contents _____

What value are you currently insured for (Sum Insured)? Buildings _____ Contents _____

Ref: 310

Please send to: Direct Line Insurance, Freepost (CN1401), PO Box 75, Croydon, CR9 9EA. No stamp needed

Please note, Direct Line Home Insurance is not available in Northern Ireland

Parents urged to give more maths coaching at home

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

PARENTS will be given a key role in improving numeracy in an official blueprint to be published this week. A government task force will call for a new partnership between home and school to meet ambitious targets.

A six-month inquiry commissioned by David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, will back a return to traditional teaching methods, with more teaching of the whole class, an emphasis on multiplication tables and less use of calculators. Schools will be urged to spend an hour a day on numeracy, echoing the requirements for a sharper focus on literacy.

But the ten-strong task force believes that more involvement from parents if three quarters of all 11-year-olds are to meet their standard by 2002, as the Government has demanded. The millennium will herald a Numeracy Year, partly de-

signed to raise adults' confidence with mathematics. Only 55 per cent of 11-year-olds reached level 4 of the national curriculum in last summer's tests, compared with more than 60 per cent for English. The task force, chaired by Professor David Reynolds of Newcastle University, believes that parents are more likely to help their children with reading than arithmetic.

Guidelines will set out what children should learn at each age, giving parents and teachers a clearer idea of expected progression. The Government's response, expected in the spring, is likely to provide some money for family learning programmes, as well as extra materials for schools.

Professor Reynolds has emphasised that there is no magic formula for raising standards of mathematics, and recognises that English children tend to be weak at

basic numeracy. England was in the bottom third of 40 countries in tests of nine-year-olds published last year.

Ministers' strategy will rest heavily on the National Numeracy Project in more than 200 primary schools. In little more than a year, 40 per cent of schools have seen an improvement of at least 15 per cent in test results at 11.

Schools are told in detail what each year group should be taught. Children spend at least 45 minutes a day on mathematics, with an emphasis on basic numeracy and especially on mental arithmetic. The use of calculators is limited to the final stage of primary education, most lesson time is spent with the class taught together and there is more homework.

Anita Straker, the project's director, said the results had been "absolutely staggering" in many schools and almost all had shown improvement.

Food cravings put 60-year-old mother on alert

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE oldest woman in Britain to give birth told yesterday of the moment she learnt that she was pregnant at the age of 60.

Speaking at length for the first time since the birth of her son Joe, two months ago, Elizabeth Buttle said that she had not taken any fertility drugs or hormone replacement therapy. She also told the *News of the World* that



Mrs Buttle's son, two-month-old Joe

the child's father, Peter Ravitsky, 55, left her when he discovered her real age. He has since returned to his wife, Vera.

Mrs Buttle, from Carmarthen, West Wales, who also has a teenage grandson, said she first suspected her condition when she developed unusual food cravings. She said: "I didn't feel ill. I just had a strange feeling. I started craving Marmite, mint sauce and vinegar."

"I bought a pregnancy test. I thought to myself, 'I'm wasting my time and money', but when I did a second test the tell-tale blue line again showed up. I thought 'Oh yes, oh no... oh dear.'"

She kept her true age from hospital doctors, who assumed she was in her early 50s.

She will bring up the baby alone, but is likely to sell her farmhouse, which has no hot water or flush lavatory, after signing a deal with the *News of the World* for a six-figure sum.



Elizabeth Buttle, who said the baby's father had left when he discovered her age

NEW YORK NEW YORK

OR ROME ROME... PRAGUE PRAGUE... TOKYO TOKYO...

LUFTHANSA WINTER SPECIALS

Prices are quoted for 2 people travelling together and now include all airport and security taxes

FROM: LONDON/BIRMINGHAM/MANCHESTER	Business	Economy	TO: EASTERN EUROPE	Business	Economy
TO: EUROPE	£	£	ALMATY	2995	945
ANKARA	935	445	ASHKABAD	3380	945
ATHENS	255	255	BAKU	1555	975
BARCELONA	575	335	BELGRADE	265	425
BASLE	495	295	BUDAPEST	1205	425
BOLOGNA	595	235	BUDAPEST	715	355
PARIS	675	335	BRATISLAVA	1055	745
FLORENCE	605	315	KATOWICE	755	415
GENEVA	615	305	KAZAN	2035	745
GRAZ	645	345	KIEV	1355	645
HELSINKI	695	315	MINSK	1145	435
LINZ	685	345	MOSCOW	1475	585
LISBON	635	315	NIZHNY NOVGOROD	1755	695
LYON	545	275	NOVOSIBIRSK	2045	925
MADRID	595	305	PRAGUE	645	365
MARSEILLE	635	335	RIGA	1145	525
MILAN	515	285	SAMARA	3035	745
NICE	705	335	SOFIA	1205	515
OPORTO	635	315	ST PETERSBURG	1235	485
ROME	675	335	TASHKENT	2045	765
THESSALONIKI	645	355	WARSAW	705	425
TURIN	585	295	ZAGREB	905	375
VALENCIA	625	295			
VENICE	525	235	TO: AFRICA		
VIENNA	615	335	ABU DHABI	1775	645
ZURICH	615	305	ACCRA	2345	745
			ADDIS ABABA	2585	1145
TO: ASIA/PACIFIC			ALEXANDRIA	1525	625
BANGKOK	3475	945	ASUWARA	3385	1145
BEIJING	3935	955	BE RUT	1625	695
BOMBAY	2875	655	CAIRO	1125	515
DELHI	2875	655	CAPE TOWN	2075	595
HO CHI MINH CITY	3335	845	DAMASCUS	1745	595
HONG KONG	3595	915	DUBAI	1075	515
JAKARTA	3545	855	HARARE	2075	615
KARACHI	3505	755	JEDDAH	1975	715
KUALA LUMPUR	3657	855	JOHANNESBURG	2025	715
MADRAS	3315	715	KHARTOUM	1245	515
MANILA	3715	915	KUWAIT	1785	715
NAGOYA	4025	1025	LAGOS	2075	615
OSAKA	4025	915	NAIROBI	2415	715
SEOUL	4025	855	RIYADH	1725	715
SHANGHAI	3735	845	TEL AVIV	2075	715
SINGAPORE	3655	845	WINDHOEK	3145	1215
TOKYO	4025	945			
TO: SOUTH AMERICA					
BUENOS AIRES	4435	1165	FROM: LONDON		
MEXICO CITY	2505	515	TO: GERMANY		
RIO DE JANEIRO	3975	915	BREMEN	N/A	215
SANTIAGO	3055	1175	COLOGNE	N/A	215
SAO PAULO	3825	855	CREMONA	N/A	215
			RUSSELDORF	N/A	215
			FRANKFURT	N/A	215
			HAMBURG	N/A	215
			HANNOVER	N/A	215
			LEIPZIG	N/A	215
			MUNICH	N/A	215
			MUNICH	N/A	215
			STUTTGART	N/A	215
TO: NORTH AMERICA/CANADA			FROM: BIRMINGHAM		
BOSTON	2825	645	TO: GERMANY		
CHICAGO	2515	595	DUSSELDORF	N/A	215
LOS ANGELES	4285	815	FRANKFURT	N/A	215
MIAMI	3025	715	MUNICH	N/A	215
NEW YORK	2525	595			
SAN FRANCISCO	4285	815	FROM: MANCHESTER		
TORONTO	2867	645	TO: GERMANY		
VANCOUVER	3195	715	DUSSELDORF	N/A	215
WASHINGTON	2505	595	FRANKFURT	N/A	215
			HAMBURG	N/A	215
			MUNICH	N/A	215

2 FOR THE PRICE OF 1 IN BUSINESS CLASS

SAVE UP TO 50% IN ECONOMY CLASS

ALL PRICES NOW INCLUDE ALL AIRPORT & SECURITY TAXES



Lufthansa

Lufthansa, in association with Thomas Cook's Flights Direct are delighted to announce that their "Winter Specials" offer has now been extended into the New Year. This gives those of you who missed it, the chance to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Make a fresh start in 1998 and fly away to any of the 110 destinations listed - and take a friend or partner with you at no extra cost. The two of you could spend the weekend waltzing in Vienna for only £278 (min. stay Saturday night), or line dancing in Chicago for as little as £536 (min. stay 5 nights).

To book, simply call Thomas Cook's specialist flights service - Flights Direct on 0870 75 00 141. Book now - this offer closes 31 January 1998. ALL PRICES QUOTED NOW INCLUDE ALL AIRPORT AND SECURITY TAXES and are for return flights for two people travelling together between now and 31 May 1998. (Outbound travel is not permitted 01-13 April 1998.) And remember Lufthansa cannot accept booking enquiries directly, as this special offer is only available through Flights Direct.

Call now on
0870 75 00 141

Lines are open Mon-Fri 9am-6pm,
Saturday and Sunday 10am-6pm



TERMS & CONDITIONS
1. This offer is available to participants of the Lufthansa/Thomas Cook Flights Direct promotion having fully completed the voucher printed on this page. Offer applies to Economy Class and Business Class travel from the UK to destinations listed, at the price stated and subject to availability in specified booking classes. 2. All booking enquiries must only be made through the promotion partner Thomas Cook Flights Direct. Bookings must be made by 31.01.98 by phone on 0870 75 00 141. A handling charge of 1% applies to payments by credit/debit card up to a maximum of £10 per transaction. Open Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm. To ensure quality customer service, calls to Flights Direct are recorded. 3. Travel must take place by 31.05.98. No outboard travel is permitted between 01-13 April 1998 inclusive. The number of seats available for this offer is restricted and seats allocated to this offer may be fully booked even though seats are still for sale on that particular flight. 4. Maximum stay 2 months. Minimum stay 1 Saturday night for Economy Class within Europe. 5. Rights for intercontinental destinations in Economy Class. No minimum stay for Business Class. 6. Tickets must be paid for at time of booking. Minimum of 2 and maximum of 4 passengers must travel together. 7. No child or infant discounts are available on these special offer fares. 8. Change of reservation - restricted with penalty charges. Name changes, Refunds, Re-booking - not permitted. 9. A transfer connection at a German airport is necessary for destinations beyond Germany. Connections may be booked from UK regional airports. Where there is no same day connection, an overnight connection at the passenger's expense is possible, provided that the total travel time does not exceed 24 hours. 10. Existing bookings made on Lufthansa are not eligible and cannot be booked retrospectively to this offer. 11. Bookings made within 5 days of departure date will incur a £70 per booking ticket delivery fee. The Thomas Cook Group Ltd, ASTA P1304, ATOL 0205.

LUFTHANSA WINTER SPECIAL TOKEN

This token entitles the holder and up to three other people to travel at the stated concessionary rates. Kindly complete these details and send the token to Thomas Cook Flights Direct, PO Box 44, Peterborough PE5 8SR.

Name of token holder: Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms

Address

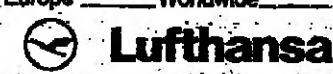
Postcode

Telephone

How often do you travel to Germany

Europe

Worldwide



NEWS IN BRIEF

Pledge to preserve green belt

Plans to build more than four million new homes in the next 25 years were defended by Nick Raynsford, the Housing Minister, yesterday. He dismissed suggestions that the green belt was under threat. He said on GMTV's *Sunday Programme*: "We believe that the green belt is hugely important and we will protect it."

Mr Raynsford added that the estimated level of new building would be lower than in past decades.

Unholy error

Eighty years after Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, was built it has found it was never properly consecrated. The Bishop of Nottingham will consecrate the church next month.

Murder charge

A 16-year-old youth has been charged with the murder of Betty Layward, 88, who died hours after being mugged in Stoke Newington, northeast London. The teenager is expected to appear at Thames Youth Court today.

Poisoned kettle

A man of 57 has been charged with attempted poisoning after mercury was allegedly found in a staff kettle in the biology department of Exeter University. A man is scheduled to appear before Exeter magistrates next month.

Town goes slow

The speed limit through Sandwich, Kent, is to be reduced to 20mph from the end of March. The pilot scheme could be adopted in historic town centres throughout Britain. If it proves successful.

Hill of beans

Rowan Atkinson was the highest-paid British actor last year, earning £11.25 million. Most came from *Bean: The Ultimate Disaster Movie*. He was the star and producer, netting about 7.5 per cent of its £136 million takings.

Star discoveries go on the blink

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AMATEUR astronomers are being fooled by satellites that blink in the night, looking like exploding stars.

They believe they have discovered a nova, but they are actually seeing sunlight glinting off the serials of satellites put into orbit for mobile phone services. So far, 46 of a planned series of 72 Iridium satellites have been launched into orbits 500 miles high. When complete, the system will enable communication by mobile phone between any two points on the Earth.

The satellites have three antennae, which form a pyramid facing the ground. They are reflective and, from any given point on the Earth's surface, produce a flare of reflected sunlight lasting up to 20 seconds.

"For all intents and purposes, they are mirrors," Rob

Schools reassured on charity tax breaks

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Charity Commissioners have lifted the financial threat hanging over Britain's independent schools with an assurance that its review will not jeopardise the tax breaks on which many rely.

Stephen Byers, the Schools Standards Minister, told the Girls' Schools Association last November that the Government would not press for charitable status to be removed from independent education. He said the Charity Commission would reach its own conclusions in an independent review.

The schools had already asked Richard Pries, the Chief Charity Commissioner, for the review's terms of reference. He said in a letter to the Independent Schools Joint Council: "The commission does not have the power (nor, I should add, any wish) to change the legal position under which the advancement of education is a charitable purpose in its own right."

At a subsequent briefing on the review, independent schools' representatives were told that the process would take several years. More than 180,000 charities would be examined to ensure that their activities still satisfied legal requirements and to establish whether the regulations needed updating.

Charitable status is worth more than £40 million to independent education. Its removal would threaten the existence of some schools and cause a sharp rise in the fees charged by others.

Labour activists and some MPs have been lobbying for action from the Government, arguing that wealthy foundations such as Eton College, with assets worth more than £130 million, should not receive state support.

David Woodhead, the national director of the Independent Schools Information Service, said: "The Chief Commissioner confirmed what we have always argued, that education is a charitable activity in itself."

Poachers could make forests unsafe for public

By MICHAEL HOBBS

POLICE have expressed concern over the ruthless activities of deer-poachers after a gamekeeper narrowly escaped being shot dead when his truck came under fire. Landowners and Forestry Commission workers have warned that the public may be at risk in the prime poaching forests of East Anglia.

The taking of wild deer in East Anglia by groups in four-wheel-drive vehicles — some with refrigeration units in back-up vans — is big business. Up to 5,000 deer may be poached each year in the region, particularly in the Thetford and Swaffham conifer forests, owned by the Forestry Commission, and adjoining farmland, according to Farm Watch, which attempts to combat rural crime.

By the time a deer has been hunted, often at the roadside, it is a lucrative catch. A red deer is worth up to £250 on the black market and a roe up to £80. With persisting doubts about the safety of beef, venison is providing a saleable alternative.

In the incident that occurred

shortly before Christmas, a bullet passed through the gamekeeper's windscreen and rear window at head height as he checked for poachers on an estate at Little Plumstead, Norfolk, at night, and spotted two men who opened fire from 50 yards. Police have urged the public to be on the lookout.

Trevor Banham, who works for the Forestry Commission at Thetford Forest, said: "The forest is an open place and, bluntly, someone is going to get shot when they



Thousands of deer are poached in East Anglia.

are out jogging or walking the dog by the irresponsible use of a firearm. The poachers use a high-powered lamp to pick up the eyes of a deer and they can shoot from up to 250 yards."

Signs of poachers include the headlights of an off-road vehicle swerving across the fields, the barking of hunchers and the firing of a rifle. Usually the alarm is raised too late by the landowner or forest-ranger for police to catch the midnight hunters. By the time they reach the scene, the trail of fur through the undergrowth, where the animal has been dragged, leads to a severed head and discarded entrails where it has been bled by having its throat cut and butchered. By first light the damage to crops from the vehicle bears testimony to the determination of the poacher.

PC Danny Cracknell, wildlife liaison officer with Norfolk police, said: "The cruelty of what the poachers do is horrific. They get in on a herd and follow a deer until they can shoot it or the dogs pull it down. An organised gang will take up to 12 deer."

"We have been trying to catch them for the best part of two years. They will shoot the animal and, within a few minutes, are miles away." Only one conviction under the 1991 Deer Act was secured last year.

Tony Bone, who runs Farm Watch in Norfolk, said that deer were often mistreated, rather than killed outright, by the shotgun, crossbow and small calibre rifles used. "Gangs don't care what they have to do. They will break through gates and we have reason to believe they have set fire to haystacks as a diversion," he said.

Pat Childerhouse, who farms at Weeting, has endured severe damage to fields of sugarbeet, wheat and barley on six occasions. He said: "Poaching has always gone on, but it is big business now. I have blocked roadways but they get in through the forestry land. They bolt-crop padlocks."



Proud father Jim, the Tamarin Cotton Top, who met new mate Paula through a computer dating agency

Computer date brings twins for endangered Tamarin monkeys

JIM the Tamarin Cotton Top monkey and his mate Paula, who met through an electronic dating agency for endangered primates just over a year ago, have become the proud parents of twins.

Only 1,000 Cotton Tops remain in the wild, in the rain forests of Colombia.

Zoologists around the world are making a joint effort to return monkeys bred in captivity to their natural habitats. So when Jim's first mate, Rosie, died in October 1996 curator Valda Frillery began looking for a new partner.

She went to the Internet, tapping into EAZA, an online computer database run by the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums. With information on Cotton Tops in



Paula checks the coast is clear for her family

captivity around the globe at her fingertips, it took her only five days to decide that Paula would be the perfect match for Jim.

Ms Frillery, 43, who runs

the Palms Tropical Oasis at Stapeley Water Gardens in South Cheshire, said: "Rosie, Jim's first partner, was brought up by humans so she didn't get the opportunity to learn how to look after her young."

"She had many babies by Jim, including the first recorded Tamarin quads, but unfortunately they all died because she didn't know what to do when they were born."

"When we found Paula on the computer we were overjoyed because she seemed to be the ideal mate for Jim. And we didn't have to travel far to get her when we eventually found her — she was living in this country, in Drusilla's Zoo in East Sussex."

Paula and Jim have been

together for more than a year — and six weeks ago the twins were born. Now the two tiny offspring will not be separated from 10-year-old Jim, who carries them on his back all day long.

"We don't know what sex they are yet because we can't disturb them until they get a little older," said Ms Frillery. "The adults are very protective of their young and if we tried to pick them up we could be in great danger."

"Although they look adorable, the Tamarins are very dangerous if they are disturbed."

Ms Frillery has high hopes that Paula will provide Jim with more offspring to help further the Tamarin monkey's worldwide captive breeding programme.

Delays on parole increase prison crowding

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of prisoners are being kept in jail longer than necessary, adding to overcrowding, because of bureaucratic delays in dealing with their applications for parole.

Sixty per cent of inmates seeking parole are not notified on time about the result of a review of their case, according to a Prison Service instruction sent to staff. The result is that offenders are kept in jail longer, while the jail population grows. Last week the number of people in the 135 prisons in England and Wales rose by 617 to 62,970.

In a memo seen by The Times, Tony Pearson, Deputy Director General of the Prison Service, told governors to ensure that complete parole files on offenders reach the Parole Board at least 18 weeks before prisoners are eligible for release. Mr Pearson wrote: "There are presently substantial delays in the parole system, which mean that only around 40 per cent of inmates applying for parole are notified of the result of their review on time."

"This in turn means that those receiving a positive decision are kept in custody for longer than necessary. This is unfair to prisoners and is unacceptable at a time of ever-increasing pressure on prison places."

Last year the Parole Board considered 4,899 cases and gave parole to 1,761. It has complained about the delays in receiving files from prisons and last year claimed that dossiers arrived late in the majority of cases. Stephen Shaw, chairman of the Prison Reform Trust, said yesterday: "It is an absurd situation when the prison system is grotesquely overcrowded."

Every prisoner serving more than four years is eligible for parole at the halfway point of their sentence and can be released on parole at any time between then and the two-thirds point. The dossiers include reports by prison psychologists, prison officers and probation officers, and details of the inmates' criminal history.

Helicopters help in high-speed stalking

By GILLIAN HARRIS
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

DEER stalkers could soon be locating herds from helicopters as well as using traditional tracking skills on foot.

The Red Deer Commission began trials on the use of helicopters to help in deer culls this month, to help to pinpoint the exact position of the deer, allowing the stalkers to maximise the kill over a short time. In a report due next month, the commission is expected to say that the experiment has proved successful.

Dick Youngson, its technical director, said: "The helicopters have been very valuable in remote areas, particularly in the West Highlands where there are sea lochs and steep ground. They have allowed us to move teams of stalkers around very quickly."

The stalkers had mixed feelings at the onset of the trials. "We've done our job the way we do it for hundreds of years," said one. "It's our way of life. I couldn't see how helicopters could help."

Jan Hope, who ran the trials, said the stalkers had been reassured that their talents would always be in demand. "Their experience and knowledge remain absolutely crucial. Helicopters can only help us locate the herds. They do not affect the way we approach the deer on the ground."

FREE HomeStart Service
First 100 orders only

Phew! What a Scorchers!

Beat off the Winter chills with the hottest additions to the multi award winning MESH Elite range, now including the NEW fast 233MHz Intel Pentium II Processor.

INTERNET READY MULTIMEDIA

£699

£999

233MHz
Fast Pentium II Processor

Elite 166 Media

- Pentium Class 166 MHz Processor
- 32MB Ultra Fast SDRAM
- 2.5MB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- 6MB Advanced Graphics with 4MB
- Super 14" Monitor
- Creative SoundBlaster 16
- 24 Speed CD ROM Drive
- 8000 (PnP) Powered Speakers
- Windows 95, Keyboard & Mouse
- US Robotics 56Kbps Modem with PipeX Internet Access
- Lotus SmartSuite 97 - Award Winning Office and Word Processing Software
- IBM Simple Speaking voice recognition software & headset microphone
- Microsoft Windows 95 Latest Version

Elite Professional 233S

- Intel Pentium® II Processor 233MHz
- 32MB of Fast SDRAM
- Windows 95 2.5MB Ultra DMA Hard Disk Drive
- 4MB Super 14" Graphics Card with PCI2V
- ADI 13" SVGA Digital Colour Monitor
- Yamaha 24 On Board Sound Processor
- 24 Speed CD ROM Drive
- 80 Watt (PnP) Powered Speakers
- US Robotics 56Kbps Modem with PipeX Internet Access
- Lotus SmartSuite 97 - Award Winning Office and Word Processing Software
- IBM Simple Speaking voice recognition software & headset microphone
- Microsoft Windows 95 Latest Version

FREE HomeStart Service
The latest innovation in customer service

How to the world of computers?
Need a little extra help?

MESH will install your PC in your home and give you basic tuition*
(included FREE with the first 100 orders only. Normally £49 + VAT)

BUY NOW
PAY NOTHING UNTIL JULY 98

MESH COMPUTERS PLC
MESH House, Aspley Way, London NW2 7HF
Tel: 0181 452 1111 Fax: 0181 208 4459
Email: sales@meshpc.co.uk
www.meshpc.co.uk

3 WAYS TO PAY!

Pay Now - Delivery within 7 days
Pay by credit card by cash on delivery cheque.
Total Price = £622.50

0% Finance - Interest Free Credit
No Deposit and nothing to pay for 6 months.
Total Price = £622.50

16% Finance - Pay over 3 years
No Deposit and nothing to pay for 6 months.
Then £22.20/month for 36 months.
Total Price = £3182.40 (incl. 16% APR)
or Pay £480 Deposit and then £16.31/month for 36 months.
Total Price = £1821.56 (incl. 16% APR)

CALL MESH SALES NOW ON: 0181 452 1111

If you are better off with BT, we'll be the first to tell you so.

Look at the cost of your home phone calls...

You may think you're best off with good old BT. Well, you may be right. The surprising thing is — we'll be the first to agree with you if it's true. All you have to do is call us. Then we'll honestly tell you whether you'd be better off with us... or them.

If that sounds fair to you, ring us on Free Call 0500 500 366.

quoting ref. RTTMBE

CABLE & WIRELESS
What can we do for you?

*Applies to Cable & Wireless Standard, UK-Call and LocalCall packages. Application subject to credit. For quality of service purposes, we may occasionally restrict or suspend your calls to and from Cable & Wireless.

Mexican yams may end misery of menopause

DOCTORS are to carry out clinical trials on an extract from a wild Mexican yam which many women claim to be an alternative to hormone replacement therapy.

A cream produced from the plant is said to replicate progesterone, the hormone essential for healthy functioning of the female reproductive system. As with oestrogen, levels of the hormone begin to decline in women at the menopause, with the result that their bones start to become brittle and they experience other conditions.

The traditional treatment is HRT, which supplies an oestrogen supplement, with synthetic progestogens, but thousands of women are turning to natural progesterone, even though it is unlicensed in

Doctors are investigating women's claims of a healthier life, writes Ian Murray

Britain and available only on private prescription from a small number of doctors. The cream has also been prescribed for premenstrual tension.

The leading exponent of natural progesterone is John Lee, a family doctor from Sebastopol, California, who 20

years ago began giving it to patients who could not take the usual oestrogen supplement for the brittle-bone condition, osteoporosis, because of the risk of developing cancer.

Dr Lee carried out tests on patients using the cream and came to the conclusion that not only was their bone density increasing but that they were no longer suffering from many of the conditions associated with the menopause, such as painful breasts, fibroids, loss of libido, weight gain and depression. The cream is available in the United States, where it is approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

In Britain, however, if patients cannot find a doctor to prescribe it for them, they have to buy it by mail order from the Channel Islands, the Republic of Ireland or America. Some can obtain it on the NHS, but most have to pay £23 for a jar containing enough cream for a month. One of the first trials in Britain is being conducted by John Studd, consultant obstetrician at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London and a pioneer of HRT 25 years ago. Although sceptical of its benefits, he said: "I have hundreds of patients who swear by this stuff. I am overwhelmed by women who



Anna Rushton champions natural progesterone. Below, Dr John Studd, who is conducting clinical trials

don't want HRT but who want to have natural progesterone from Mexican yams. When they have it they seem much better, and these women are not crazy."

Another two-year trial, sponsored by the National Osteoporosis Society, is about to start in Hampshire, run by Gill Pearson at the Southampton Osteoporosis Research Unit, the only one in the country specialising in the bone condition. "The lack of scientific data available to doctors, compounded by the abundance of literature and anecdotal evidence available

to women on the subject have caused controversy and confusing advice to patients," she said.

One who enthusiastically prescribes natural progesterone is Shirley Bond, a private GP with a surgery off Harley Street. "It really works," she said. "I have hundreds of patients who use it and it is obvious that it does them a great deal of good."

Dr Bond is medical adviser to the Natural Progesterone Information Service, set up by Anna Rushton, a freelance medical journalist, who researched the subject after suf-

fering mood swings and depression when starting conventional HRT. She tried natural progesterone and went to a lecture by Dr Lee, who impressed her.

In the 18 months since the service was set up, 12,000 women have written to it at PO Box 131, Echingham, TN19 7ZN, for copies of the book on natural progesterone.

Ms Rushton said: "The evidence is that there are considerable health benefits and that women really do want an alternative, but the profession will not listen until there are clinical trials."



Wild yams and the hormone supplement cream

Bald choice for men who face giving up her for hair

PROSPECTS for bald men have grown immeasurably since the days when Hippocrates, who knew a thing or two about the human body, smeared pigeon droppings on his barren scalp in an attempt to get hair to sprout.

Last week, a pill called Propecia went on sale in the United States. It is the latest anti-baldness remedy to be approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration. The one-milligram tablets, swallowed with a gulp of water and a prayer for hair, are available by prescription only, and use is confined to men as the active ingredient, finasteride, can lead to birth defects if taken by

Tunku Varadarajan reports on cure in which a full scalp could mean empty sex life

women. There are an estimated 33 million bald or balding men in America. Analysts predict that American sales of Propecia, produced by the multinational drug company Merck, could soon touch £300 million a year.

The British Medicines Control Agency is evaluating the pill, as are licensing boards in every EU country. Soon, European sales could outstrip America, making the pill the highest selling "vanity" drug.

Propecia costs \$45 to \$50 (about £30) for a monthly course. Since it

requires a lifetime commitment to secure and maintain any results, the company can clearly be said to have come upon a good little earner. If ingested daily, the octagonal pill will generate hair within a year in 50 per cent of users, and in 66 per cent over two years. An impressive 85 per cent, tests show, will not lose any more hair while on the course.

There is a problem: Propecia has a side-effect that should make men think twice. Two per cent of users will experience a decreased sex drive verging on impotence, giving

rise to a dilemma of Faustian proportions: is it to be hair or sex? The drug shuts down the enzyme responsible for producing the male hormone dihydrotestosterone. The enzyme's presence in the scalp indirectly contributes to the onset of baldness.

Finasteride also causes abnormalities in male fetuses, particularly a condition in which the opening of the penis is on the underside rather than the tip. As the drug can be absorbed through skin, Merck encases its tablets in a

coating and warns that women should not touch the inner power.

The Food and Drug Administration was won over by the company's assurances that there is no risk to the female partners of users. As for the impotence fears, it felt that a clearly worded warning on the packaging satisfied the requirement that adult bald men could make an informed decision.

The arrival of Propecia has been greeted with near-festivity by America's bald "community". The Internet abounds with sites dedicat-

ed to the bald. Many of them are abuzz with discussions on Propecia. Inevitably, a number of groups exist to instill bald pride, and some are blasé about the drug.

The Bald-headed Men of America group, which has more than 20,000 members and is based at Bald Drive, Morehead City, North Carolina. It is "dedicated to the belief that bald-headed men have extra individual character". It has elected a Baldness Hall of Fame, including Julius Caesar, Andre Agassi, Yul Brynner, Bob Hoskins and Pablo Picasso, to help to "eliminate the loss of self-esteem associated with loss of hair".

Enquiries must be aged 18 or over, in order to safeguard our customers, certain transactions may require written confirmation. All First Direct customers automatically receive an overdraft of £250. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. First Direct credit facilities are subject to a credit check. For written details of our services write to First Direct, Freeport, Leeds LS98 2ZF. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. To maintain a quality service, calls may be monitored and recorded. LLOYDS Cheque Account details are based on the Classic Account. The costs complete less of £5 per month. BARCLAYS Cheque Account details are based on the Barclays Bank Account. The costs complete less of £5 per month. NAT WEST Cheque Account details are based on the Current Plus Account. The costs complete less of £5 per month. All fees may vary in the future. First Direct variable interest rate for overdrafts of £250 is 12.0% EAR. All information based on authorised overdrafts of £250 for 5 days or more per month and correct as 15 January 1998. Member FSCB Group

why not bank for free?

Annual current account charges

(annual fees for use of £750 overdraft)

Lloyds Classic	£36.00
NatWest Current Plus	£60.00
Barclays Bank Account	£60.00
First Direct Cheque Account	£0.00

for 24 hour banking call free
0800 24 24 24

Or complete the coupon and post to:
First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds LS98 2ZF
Mr/Ms/Ms or Title

Surname

Forename(s)

UK Address

Postcode

Telephone No

you don't want to pay...

so there's no need to. At First Direct, the UK's leading 24 hour telephone bank, everyday banking transactions are free, even if you're overdrawn. We also give you a £250 overdraft facility free of any fees, because we appreciate that from time to time you may need a little flexibility.

you don't want a closed bank...

so we've never closed. We are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Bank with us by telephone and you can call from anywhere in the UK at anytime for the cost of a local call. Which means no long trips to the high street and no queuing either.

you don't want hassle getting cash...

so we give you the First Direct Card. This allows you to withdraw up to £500 a day from more than 13,500 cash machines across the UK, including those of Midland. It also guarantees your cheques for £100 and lets you pay by Switch. Paying in is just as easy - at any Midland or direct to us by post.

you don't want hassle paying bills...

so we pay bills for you. Simply call us, tell us who to pay, how much and when. This way you can easily organise everything to suit you best, then forget it - we'll make all the arrangements.

you don't want poor service...

so we make sure you never get it. Every call is answered by our friendly and professional Banking Representatives, who will deal immediately with your day-to-day banking needs. And they are supported by specialists ready to help with all of your more complex banking requirements.

you don't want to have to shop around...

so we make sure you don't have to. You have access to a comprehensive range of direct banking services. These include a fee free Visa Card, a range of saving and borrowing opportunities, a no gimmicks home finance service, along with insurance and travel services too.

you don't want hassle moving...

so we make it simple to open an account, transfer your salary and other banking transactions. You'll find that as members of the HSBC Group, one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world, we provide the best service to our 800,000 customers from day one. And it's easy and free to find out more about 24 hour banking - call now on 0800 24 24 24 or complete the coupon.

first direct

MAPLE @ MAPLIN SHOWROOM NOW OPEN
WATFORD: 136 High Street (Tel: 01923 344444)
MORE OPENING HOURS

SALE

'98 Technology at SALE Prices

Our NEW '98 PCs with improved specifications and the world's finest quality components are now at lower prices than ever before, and are available today.

You can choose from AMD, IBM or Intel processors, all featuring MMX™ Technology and components from the world's finest manufacturers: ASUS Motherboards, Western Digital Hard Disk Drives, CD-ROM Drives from Pioneer and SONY, ADI Monitors - the list goes on. Add to this our award winning Office / Education (and/or) Games Software and you will realise that Maple offer the best built-to-order PCs in the UK.

Standard Features: 3.5" 1.44MB FDD • Microsoft Windows 95 (5th Edition) CD • IBM Value Recognition Software with Headphones and Microphone • Internet Ready • Maple Online Pre-installed • 12 Months Parts and Labour Warranty • Choice of Modem, Mouse, or Desktop Case

MINERVA 200IM/2 6x86MMX PR-200+ Processor	MATRIX 233/2 233MHz Intel Pentium II Processor with MMX™ Technology	MINERVA 233+ CMX/3 6x86MMX PR-233+ Processor	MINERVA K6 233/2 233MHz AMD K6 MMX™ Enhanced Processor
• 6x86MMX PR-200+ Processor with MMX™ Technology Manufactured by IBM • 32MB EDO RAM • 8x Speed CD-ROM Drive • 2.1Gb Hard Disk Drive • 640x Graphics SV Chipset • 1000 4Mb system RAM • Creative Labs 3D Waveable Sound Card • 14-16MB Approved FastView Proton • 14" Pioneer 286 Non Inverted SVGA Colour Monitor • Corel WordPerfect 7 Office Suite • Plus Choice of ONE of the Software bundles packs listed below • System includes 2800 Value Pack Software with Headphones & Microphone (Specifications may vary on 200 IMV2 model)	• 233MHz Intel Pentium II Processor with MMX™ Technology • ASUS Motherboard with 4MB L2 Cache • 32MB SDRAM • 4.3Gb Hard Disk Drive • 512x320 Mode Cards • Pioneer 286 Plus CD-ROM • 4x ADI 100 MegaByte AGP Graphics on board • (Does NOT use System RAM) • Yamaha 16KHz Waveable Sound Card & Speakers • 14" Pioneer 286 Non Inverted SVGA Colour Monitor • Corel WordPerfect 7 Office Suite • IBM Value Recognition Software with Headphones and Microphone • System only available with Intel Server or Desktop Case	• 6x86MMX PR-233+ Processor with MMX™ Technology Manufactured by IBM • 32MB SDRAM with Super T2 Cache • 528x12 Cache • 64MB EDO RAM • Pioneer 286 Plus CD-ROM • 4.3Gb Hard Disk Drive • Creative Labs 3D Waveable Sound Card • 14-16MB Approved FastView Proton • 14" Pioneer 286 Plus CD-ROM • 4x ADI 100 MegaByte AGP Graphics on board • (Does NOT use System RAM) • Yamaha 16KHz Waveable Sound Card & Speakers • 14" Pioneer 286 Non Inverted SVGA Colour Monitor • Corel WordPerfect 7 Office Suite • IBM Value Recognition Software with Headphones and Microphone • System only available with Intel Server or Desktop Case	• 233MHz AMD K6 MMX™ Enhanced Processor • ASUS Motherboard with 4MB L2 Cache • 32MB SDRAM • 528x12 Cache • 64MB EDO RAM • Pioneer 286 Plus CD-ROM • 4.3Gb Hard Disk Drive • Creative Labs 3D Waveable Sound Card • 14-16MB Approved FastView Proton • 14" Pioneer 286 Plus CD-ROM • 4x ADI 100 MegaByte AGP Graphics on board • (Does NOT use System RAM) • Yamaha 16KHz Waveable Sound Card & Speakers • 14" Pioneer 286 Non Inverted SVGA Colour Monitor • Corel WordPerfect 7 Office Suite • IBM Value Recognition Software with Headphones and Microphone • System only available with Intel Server or Desktop Case

£599 or VAT £703.83

£899 or VAT £1056.32

£999 or VAT £1173.83

£1099 or VAT £1291.32

MONITOR UPGRADES FOR ALL SYSTEMS

To 15" PST Digital from £199 VAT To 17" PST Digital from £249 VAT To 19" PST Digital from £299 VAT

BUNDLE PACK 2 - DORLING KINDERSLEY FOR 14-17 YRS OLDS

4 CD's including: The Way Things Work, Eyewitness Children's Encyclopedia, Dinosaur Hunter & Children's Dictionary, A CD's including: My Remarkable Dictionary, My First Word Explorer, Amazing Animals and Jolly-Rise Circus

BUNDLE PACK 3 - MEGA GAMES PACK 5 CD's including: Command & Conquer, Logic Quest, 1900 Networks & Rally, Chessmaster, Top Gun, Aerial's Year 1998, Games Joyride included

BUNDLE 3 - CD EDUCATION PACK 4 CD's, 35 Titles: Flashman New Century Encyclopedia (12 Hk), Flashman Info '98, Flashman World Map, AND MANY MORE

Internet: <http://www.maplecorp.co.uk> E-Mail: sales@maplecorp.co.uk

Maple Computer Corporation (UK) Limited, Ardent House, Gates Way, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 3HG.

TELEPHONE: 01438-72-62-62

FAX: 01438 35-71-00

Lines open: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-6.30PM SATURDAY 10AM-2.30PM

GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION AND MAJOR CORPORATE PURCHASE ORDERS WELCOME

Prices, specifications and offers are subject to change without notice or obligation. All sales are subject to our standard conditions of sale. All products are sold on a cash basis. Delivery of goods is subject to a minimum order of 10 units. Delivery is subject to a minimum order of 10 units. Delivery is subject to a minimum order of 10 units.

Systems are normally within 7 to 10 working days of order payment. For repeat orders, please allow between 7 and 14 working days. Some hardware orders may be backordered. Software orders may be backordered. Some hardware orders may be backordered. Software orders may be backordered.

Prices, specifications and offers are subject to change without notice or obligation. All sales are subject to our standard conditions of sale. All products are sold on a cash basis. Delivery of goods is subject to a minimum order of 10 units. Delivery is subject to a minimum order of 10 units. Delivery is subject to a minimum order of 10 units.

Systems are normally within 7 to 10 working days of order payment. For repeat orders, please allow between 7 and 14 working days. Some hardware orders may be backordered. Software orders may be backordered. Some hardware orders may be backordered. Software orders may be backordered.

Prices, specifications and offers are subject to change without notice or obligation. All sales are subject to our standard conditions of sale. All products are sold on a cash basis. Delivery of goods is subject to a minimum order of 10 units. Delivery is subject to a minimum order of 10 units. Delivery is subject to a minimum order of 10 units.

Systems are normally within 7 to 10 working days of order payment. For repeat orders, please allow between 7 and 14 working days. Some hardware orders may be backordered. Software orders may be backordered. Some hardware orders may be backordered. Software orders may be backordered.

Prices, specifications and offers are subject to change without notice or obligation. All sales are subject to our standard conditions of sale. All products are sold on a cash basis. Delivery of goods is subject to a minimum order of 10 units. Delivery is subject to a minimum order of 10 units. Delivery is subject to a minimum order of 10 units.

Systems are normally within 7 to 10 working days of order payment. For repeat orders, please allow between 7 and 14 working days. Some hardware orders may be backordered. Software orders may be backordered. Some hardware orders may be backordered. Software orders may be backordered.

Prices, specifications and offers are subject to change without notice or obligation. All sales are subject to our standard conditions of sale. All products are sold on a cash basis. Delivery of goods is subject to a minimum order of 10 units. Delivery is subject to a minimum order of 10 units. Delivery is subject to a minimum order of 10 units.

Systems are normally within 7 to 10 working days of order payment. For repeat orders, please allow between 7 and 14 working days. Some hardware orders may be backordered. Software orders may be backordered. Some hardware orders may be backordered. Software orders may be backordered.

Prices, specifications and offers are subject to change without notice or obligation. All sales are subject to our standard conditions of sale. All products are sold on a cash basis. Delivery of goods is subject to a minimum order of 10 units. Delivery is subject to a minimum order of 10 units. Delivery is subject to a minimum order of 10 units.

Negatives cast light on long-lost high life

A treasure trove of photographs shows portraits not seen for nearly a century, reports **Dalya Alberge**



Edward, Prince of Wales, by Lafayette, in 1897

HISTORIC photographic portraits of turn-of-the-century figures such as Lillie Langtry, the actress who became the King's mistress, and an eccentric "Dancing Marquess" who squandered his fortune on extravagant costumes for high society balls, are among thousands of glass negatives that have come to light.

All have been acquired by the National Portrait Gallery. Most of them, its curator of photographs believes, are unique. Original printing processes have been revived to reproduce the albumen, carbon and platinum prints.

The gallery's curator, Terence Pepper, said: "Some of the negatives are quite cracked and in bad condition. But it's so exciting printing something that hasn't been printed for 100 years."

Many of the newly acquired pictures were created in the three leading studios of the Edwardian era — Lafayette, H. Walter Barnett and Bassano. Mr Pepper, who has selected 110 images for an exhibition opening on January

30, said they gave a taste of "the sumptuous existence enjoyed by the members of *fin-de-siècle* high society".

Some are posed images against stylised backgrounds, often imaginary scenes painted on to the negatives, and others record stylish get-togethers and country house shooting parties.

Several of the pictures record the 1897 Devonshire House Ball, a fancy-dress celebration of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. Among the 700 guests were the Princess of Wales, the future Queen Alexandra, in the guise of Marguerite de Valois, wife of Henry IV of France. Mr Pepper described her as "the first glamorous photographic icon in the Royal Family". Others, in the most flamboyant costumes imaginable, included Daisy, Princess of Fless (1873-1943) — wife of one of the richest princes of Germany — as the Queen of Sheba; she was considered one of the greatest beauties of the day though, judging from her photograph, the camera did

not love her. The craze for motor cars, bicycles and ballooning is also reflected.



The "Dancing Marquess" at a fancy-dress ball

A picture of 15 members of the Gladstone family features each of them with their own bicycle and a portrait of Edward VII, published in 1902, shows him posing in his 24-horsepower Daimler.

Among hundreds of other sitters are Frances Evelyn (Daisy), Countess of Warwick, the society hostess and philanthropist; and Mrs Keppel, great-grandmother of Camilla Parker Bowles.

A portrait of Henry Cyril Paget, 5th Marquess of Anglesey, nicknamed the "Dancing Marquess", in costume for the Headgear fancy-dress ball, is a reminder of a man who squandered his fortune on jewellery and costumes for theatrical extravaganzas. At his death in 1905, at the age of 30, one contemporary report said: "His example will re-

main one of the strongest arguments against our hereditary system that the most ardent revolutionary would wish for."

Many of the negatives are the work of Alexander Bassano, one of numerous photographers who had the royal appointment. Bassano's company — originally based in Regent Street and Bond Street — is still trading. The National Portrait Gallery acquired the collection, dating from 1870 to 1920, from its archives; among the negatives are 140 images of Lord Kitchener, including the original portrait used for the First World War recruiting poster, "Your Country Needs You".

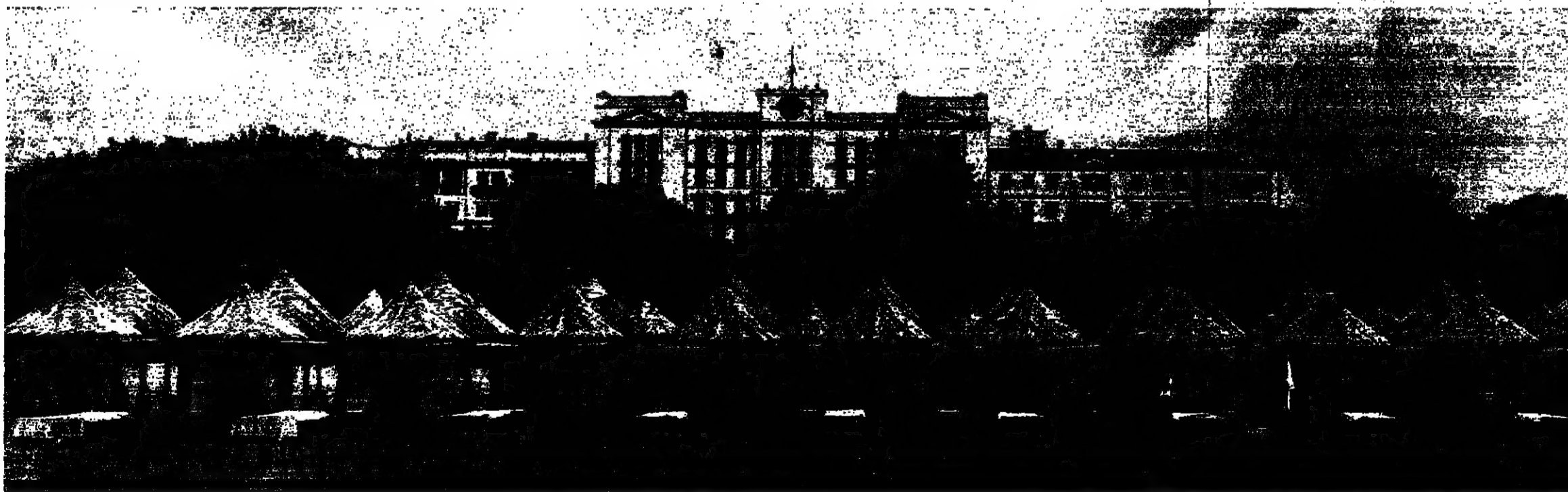
The gallery has also acquired more than 50 portraits Bassano took of Queen Victoria. An exhibition of these earlier images is planned.

Art, page 78, 79



Lillie Langtry, by Lafayette, in 1899: she said her purpose in life was "to look nice and make myself agreeable"

Photographed at Sheraton's Hotel Des Bains, Venice Lido, Italy



STAY IN A HOTEL WHERE TIME STANDS STILL AND BE THE FIRST TO LEAVE FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND.

Sheraton
HOTELS & RESORTS

Call 0800 353 535
or visit www.sheraton.com

Iraq envoy killed in Jordan

MYSERY last night surrounded the killing of six Iraqis, including a senior diplomat, his wife and two wealthy businessmen, who were stabbed at a house in Amman, the Jordanian capital.

Two Egyptians also died in what a Jordanian official described as an "Algerian-style" attack which bore the hallmarks of a professional hit. The likeliest motive was a feud over business contracts between powerful and greedy factions within Iraq's regime, Iraqi dissidents said.

Hikmet al-Hijou, Iraq's No 2 at its embassy in Amman, was killed when four or five men broke into the house of a millionaire Iraqi businessman who was hosting a Ramadan meal attended by other wealthy businessmen.

The only survivor was said to be a Greek woman, herself critically injured, who told police the attackers spoke with distinct Iraqi accents. Iraqi dissidents said she was the girlfriend of the host, Sami George Thomas, a member of Iraq's Assyrian Christian community.

Mr Thomas and another Iraqi businessman, Nemir Aouji, may have been the intended target rather than

Business feuding may lie behind the slaughter of eight in a millionaire's house, writes Michael Theodoulou

the diplomat, Jordanian security officials and Iraqi dissidents said.

Such carnage is extremely rare in Amman, the usually sedate Jordanian capital which is home to a large expatriate Iraqi community.

It took several hours for news of the killings to emerge and when it did it came in a terse statement from Baghdad, which announced the immediate dispatch to Jordan of Foreign Ministry and security officials to investigate. It called the killings a "treacherous" act.

From the tone of its statements, Baghdad was attempting to blame Iraqi dissidents

based in Jordan, a claim dismissed as "lies" by opposition figures, who in turn hinted that the killings resulted from a feud within the "corrupt" Iraqi establishment over lucrative business contracts.

Much of the legal and illegal trade between Jordan and Iraq is reportedly controlled by well-connected "mafia" gangs, with most of the black market cornered by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday. Arab diplomats said.

Mr Thomas was believed to have run businesses for Saddam and Uday for the past decade. Mr Aouji was a Beirut-based Iraqi businessman

who was also described as close to Saddam and his half-brother, Barzan. One of Mr Aouji's brothers was executed in the 1980s for attempting to hide funds from Saddam, dissidents said. A third Aouji brother, Nazim, is a businessman based mainly in Britain and is also said to be close to Saddam.

It was the second attack on an Iraqi diplomat in Jordan in two weeks, after the attempted shooting of the commercial attaché. That incident stemmed from a family business feud, according to the Jordanian authorities, who arrested several Iraqis. They are awaiting trial.

Relations between Baghdad and Amman have sharply deteriorated since Iraq last month executed four Jordanian students it accused of smuggling car spare parts worth about £500. Some reports said Saddam had suspected Jordan of plotting with a senior Iraqi general to overthrow him. Yet it was most unlikely Saturday's murder was Jordan's revenge for the student executions.

"King Hussein simply would never allow something like this," said an Arab diplomat in Amman. Nor would he have permitted Iraqi dissidents based in Jordan to commit an act so potentially damaging to his kingdom, the envoy added. The possibility that greed has led to squabbling within Saddam's regime comes as he attempted to give the impression of an "impenetrable" Iraq to the world.

Last night a Jordanian security source said officials were instructed at the Karameh border post with Iraq to detain all Iraqis for questioning and to have them photographed. All Iraqis arriving at the border post were prevented from crossing into Iraq. The Jordanian measures were also imposed at Amman international airport.



Hikmet al-Hijou, the Iraqi diplomat murdered in Amman, and a Saddam portrait

Baghdad celebrates Scud attacks



Baghdad: Iraq yesterday celebrated the anniversary of its first 1991 Gulf War attack on Israel with a Scud missile, left. Ministers presented awards to scientists responsible for the weapon programme and praised the country for being the first Arab power to hit the Jewish state with rockets.

The Iraqi forces fired 39 Scuds at Israel from the second day of the war. The attacks pitted modified Soviet-designed Scuds against American Patriot anti-missile batteries. (AFP)

Clinton likely to seek trial over Jones sex claims

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON is expected to conclude that after giving nearly six hours of sworn testimony rebutting the sexual harassment accusations of Paula Jones, he has little to lose by pressing for a full trial in May.

Mr Clinton's advisers are hoping that the long-dreaded encounter, in which he gave his deposition on Saturday, will mark the worst point of the saga, and that, if the details become public, as is probably inevitable, that damage will be minimal.

But in a nation with zero tolerance for political secrets, the knowledge that there now exist nearly six hours of secret videotaped testimony about the President's sexual history is proving irresistible. Americans yesterday appeared torn between feeling that it is undignified for a President to be subject to such scrutiny, and raw curiosity about the details of his answers.

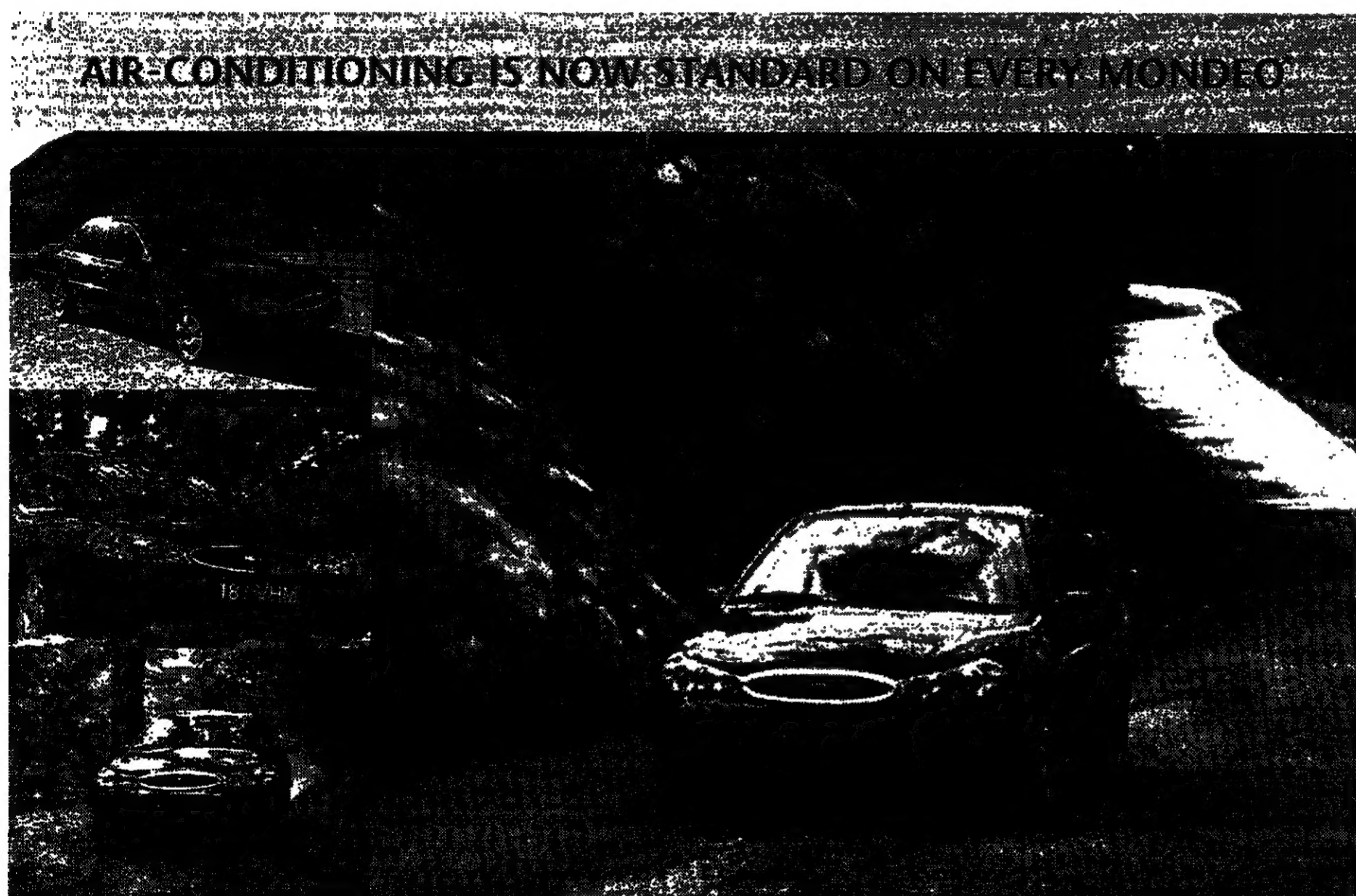
The President is believed to have vigorously denied Mrs Jones's claim that he invited her to a Little Rock hotel suite in 1991 and asked her for oral sex. Mr Clinton, who was Governor of Arkansas at the time, has repeatedly said that he does not remember meeting Mrs Jones or being alone

with her in the hotel room. If the case goes to trial on May 27 as scheduled, and if the President then chooses not to give evidence in person, the videotapes could form part of the evidence. They would be edited by the judge to present only information directly relevant to Mrs Jones's claims. Although they could not be shown outside the courtroom, the transcript would be available.

Under the rules of "discovery", Mrs Jones's lawyers were permitted to ask the President anything which might lead to relevant information. The discovery phase of the trial is due to end by January 31.

According to reports, one question posed to Mr Clinton on Saturday was why he needed a suite at the Excelsior Hotel. Mrs Jones's advisers believe they have evidence that it was booked at short notice, and want to know whether this is because he learnt that Mrs Jones would be in the hotel.

According to reports from a state trooper, Mr Clinton said he needed the room to take a telephone call from President Bush while he was attending a trade show at a convention centre next to the hotel.



SENSATIONAL



0345 111 777 www.ford.co.uk



Mondeo BRINGS YOU TO YOUR SENSES

*Special promotion for orders taken from 1st January 1998. Excludes Mondeo Aspen. Mondeo LX, GLX, SL, Ghia air conditioning in lieu of sunroof. Car featured is Ghia X.

The Open University

Study for a BA or BSc degree.

To broaden your interests or develop your career, the Open University offers over 150 courses you can choose from to build your own BA or BSc degree programmes. They cover arts, science, social science, computing, technology, modern languages, mathematics, business management, English law, education and health and social welfare. If you are 18 or over and resident in the European Union, you're eligible. No previous qualifications are required.

THROUGH OU SUPPORTED OPEN LEARNING

Our unique method of teaching lets you study wherever you live and in your own time. The Open University comes to you with specially written texts, audio and visual cassettes, TV and radio programmes and, for some courses, computer software. You also receive support from your personal tutor and Regional Centre.

Admissions are on a first-come first-served basis - so fill in the coupon or phone NOW.

Send for your free prospectus on 'Courses, Diplomas and BA/BSc Degrees' NOW.

Send to: The Open University, PO Box 65, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.
☐ Please send me a copy of the Courses, Diplomas and BA/BSc Degrees prospectus.
☐ I have contacted the OU before.

Name Initials Surname CHAA

Address

Postcode

Tel Date of birth 119

OU Hotline (24 hours) 0870 9000 301

University education and training open to all adults.

Castro hopes for material reward from papal visit

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI AND RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

DESPITE persecuting the church for most of his 38 years at the helm of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro hopes the visit by the Pope this week will give him "a passport to heaven".

During a six-hour television appearance that went on into the early hours, Señor Castro said Cuba had nothing to fear from the Pope and called for huge turnouts at the papal events by Communists and believers alike. President Castro described the Pope as "very friendly, very respectful", and spent 30 minutes reading excerpts from speeches in which the Pope took the same position as Cuba on issues such as poverty and the evils of global capitalism. Despite his battles with Cuba's former Soviet allies in the 1980s, the Pope "is not a reactionary nor an imperialist", Señor Castro said.

As those words suggest, the papal visit appears unlikely to be the political showdown that the past records of both men might indicate. Instead, in the lengthy and continuing negotiations for the visit, the Catholic Church and the Cuban Government have tried to avoid confrontation. But despite Vatican attempts to play down expectations that the

Pope's visit will mark the beginning of the end for one of the world's few remaining Communist regimes, a senior papal aide was quoted yesterday as saying that the regime could not withstand the Pope's "moral force" and was almost certainly doomed.

Cardinal Ricardo María Carles, the Archbishop of Barcelona, who is accompanying

‘The Pope can’t change Cuba, but maybe he can change the way Cubans think’

the Pope to Havana on Wednesday, said Cuba was the last Marxist bastion in America. "What happened with the Berlin Wall and what happened in Poland could happen there, too," he told the Spanish newspaper ABC. "The papacy has never before had such moral force."

Cuba has agreed to a number of concessions, giv-

ing the Catholic Church an unprecedented degree of freedom to spread the faith. Church leaders have returned the Government's goodwill gestures by avoiding direct criticism of Cuba's Communist system and stressing the pastoral nature of the visit.

Even so, the political undercurrents cannot be hidden as both sides size up the long-term impact of the Pope's presence in Cuba. Señor Castro hopes to improve his international image, thereby encouraging much-needed foreign investment and undermining the 30-year-old US economic embargo.

Señor Castro is also nervous about public reaction in Cuba. He devoted much of his television appearance to highlighting the recent results of Cuba's one-sided parliamentary elections, in which the Communists — the only party allowed to present candidates — won 98.5 per cent of the vote. But while Señor Castro may be happy for the world to see the Pope in Cuba, he seems less sure about letting the people in Cuba see the Pope. Despite elaborate preparations for the four scheduled open-air Masses to be shown live around the world, Cuba has yet to decide if those



The Pope, who visits Cuba this week, frees doves of peace from the balcony of his Vatican apartments yesterday

pictures will be shown on Cuban television.

His reluctance in giving the Pope free rein may lie in his careful study of the Pope's behaviour on other foreign trips. Seldom overtly political, "the Pope is very clever at finding words that are acceptable to the Communists — patriotism, hard work — but defining them in a way to point out the anomalies of

Communist doctrine," said Jonathan Kwitny, author of the latest papal biography, *Man Of The Century*.

A good example is the Vatican's official slogan for the Cuba visit, which describes the Pope as "the messenger of truth and hope". Inoffensive enough, it carries a subtle but intentional jab at the lack of hope many Cubans feel about future improvement in their

lives under Communism. "Saying that anywhere else might sound like a pious platitude. But in Cuba it's different," said Bishop Thomas Wenski, the Polish-born director of Catholic Charities in Miami. "The Pope can't change Cuba, but maybe he can change the way Cubans think."

Bishop Wenski said during his visit the Pope will publicly

address diverse, seemingly everyday issues such as abortion and family values. "But in the context of Cuba, that's going to be counter-revolutionary. The Government there has tried to replace the family," he said.
□ **Havana:** Cuban officials honoured Diana, Princess of Wales, on Saturday by inaugurating a memorial garden in her name in old Havana. (AP)

Fake aid workers slip up after ice storm

FROM RICHARD CLEGG IN OTTAWA

THIEVES posing as aid workers have begun preying on victims of the ice storm which swept Canada ten days ago. But not all the impostors have managed to evade the law.

Since the storm, the Canadian Government has sent more than 600 soldiers into the stricken region to cut firewood, restore electrical supplies and help farmers.

Some gangs, however, have been cashing in by offering to help and then stealing items such as portable generators.

Four men and a woman who posed as United Nations soldiers found that deception did not pay. Wearing Canadian army uniforms and carrying false UN identification, they walked up to an isolated farmhouse near Alexandria in Ontario at the weekend and offered to do farm chores.

The farm family, who were puzzled by the UN connection, grew even more suspicious when the "colonel" in charge joined his troops to clear ice from the roof.

"You'd never see a colonel with a shovel in his hand doing manual work," said Police Sergeant James MacMaster. The farmer called the police — who waited until the group had finished their work, then arrested them and charged them with impersonating soldiers.

Two days earlier, Constable Ronald MacDonald was lying on the couch in his parents' farmhouse late at night after watching a TV news report warning that thieves were posing as a "Civilian Emergency Response Team" delivering drinking water.

Moments later a man claiming to be with the group knocked on the door and offered a plastic jug of water. Constable MacDonald detained him. It was the policeman's first arrest since joining the force this month.

New Austrian cardinal tipped as candidate for pontiff

BY RICHARD OWEN

THE Pope yesterday brought the College of Cardinals — the body that will elect his successor — up to full strength with 22 appointments. The new cardinals include Christoph Schönborn, the Archbishop of Vienna, who at 52 — he will turn 53 this week — is the college's youngest member.

He is tipped as a future pontiff, although his relatively liberal credentials appear to run counter to the Pope's sternly conservative

views. The appointments confirm the growing predominance of non-Italians in the college, making it more likely that John Paul II will be followed by another "foreign Pope". He referred to this obliquely, saying that his choices reflected the "universality of the Church".

The Pope, announcing the appointments at his last Sunday Angelus prayers in St Peter's Square before leaving for Cuba on Wednesday, said they would be confirmed on February 21. The

number of cardinals aged less than 80, who meet in conclave after a pontiff's death to elect a successor from among their ranks, should be kept constant at 120, but the Pope has delayed filling vacancies, leading to speculation he wanted to ensure the next conclave would be dominated by those sharing his views.

Nearly 90 per cent of cardinals have been appointed since the Pope was elected in 1978. They now number 168. Of those, 123 — nearly a fifth of whom are Italian

— are eligible to vote. The Pope said he had exceeded the 120 maximum by three to honour several Italians who head Vatican departments, to whom he owed a particular debt. He also kept two names secret, or in pectore, a practice if the churchmen might be persecuted. It is thought the two are in China.

The list included two senior Italians, Archbishop Salvatore De Giorgi of Palermo and Archbishop Dionigi Tettamanzi of Genoa, but is dominated by non-

Italians, including Archbishops Serafim Fernandes de Araújo of Brazil, Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico, Francis Eugene George of Chicago and Antonio María Ronco Varela of Madrid.

□ **Rebel forgiven:** The Vatican has lifted its excommunication of Tissa Balasuriya, the Sri Lankan theologian, after intense lobbying (Ruth Gledhill writes). Father Balasuriya, the first theologian to be excommunicated since 1953, incurred papal displeasure for his writings on the Virgin Mary.



Schönborn has liberal credentials

All you ever get on **SKY** is **cricket, cricket, cricket**



Veronica's Closet - Sky One

Friends - Sky One

3rd Rock from the Sun - Sky One

Many people are still unaware of the depth of quality programming we offer across over 35 channels. With first-run shows on Sky One alongside dedicated movie channels, there's never been a better time to get Sky (especially if you're a fan of international cricket!)

England's tour of the West Indies with ball-by-ball coverage of the five Test match series and the five One-Day Internationals

0990 97 97 97 now or see your nearest Sky retailer

The Open University
Study for BA or BS degree.

Mugabe is forced to abandon land grab

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT Mugabe has been effectively forced to abandon his mass takeover of white-owned farms in Zimbabwe. The climbdown, under pressure from the European Union and World Bank, is the price for loans to save the country from economic collapse.

The Government has signed undertakings with both institutions committing it to observing constitutional guarantees of respect for property ownership and the right to fair compensation when it embarks on land reform — all of which Mr Mugabe has scorned in the last year of anti-white rhetoric.

It has also agreed to stick to its current budget for buying land to resettle poor black people. The £2.1 million is "enough for a token handful" of farms, a European diplomat said.

Last Friday Michael Laidler, head of the EU delegation in Harare, signed a loan agreement for about \$24 million (£15 million). He said that the series of "promises, undertakings, guarantees and commitments that have been given to secure this tranche are now under scrutiny". It would be "disaster" if Zimbabwe failed to meet them, he said. "Please don't let us down."

The country's economy has been in chaos since Mr Mugabe's order in August to pay guerrilla veterans of Zimbabwe's independence war benefits costing £140 million. A list issued on November 28 of 1,480 farms — mostly owned by whites and covering more than 11 million acres — for "compulsory acquisition" dramatically worsened the situation.

Mr Mugabe refused to pay fair compensation for the land

and promised to ignore court proceedings against seizures. Farm union officials said national agricultural output would fall 40 per cent in the first year and that 147,000 workers would be forced off newly resettled farms.

Within two months the currency has collapsed by nearly 50 per cent. The stock market has crashed; investor confidence has evaporated; consumer prices have soared, and workers have staged the most comprehensive strike in the country's history.

Yesterday the independent *Sunday Standard* reported that the country's banking sector faced major disruption because commercial farmers due to have their land expropriated had stopped payments on their cumulative debt of about £60 million.

On December 31 the Government delivered a letter to the EU signed by Herbert Murerwa, the Finance Minister, and cleared by Mr Mugabe, which listed a series of mostly fiscal undertakings and commitments for land reform. It says the Government will carry out land reform "in a transparent way, in accordance with the rule of law and in terms of the constitution". It also promises that the process will not affect agricultural production or workers' security.

The World Bank has paid out \$120 million after receiving an almost identical letter. Mr Mugabe repeated the assurances in Brussels on January 7, diplomats confirm.

The spectacular collapse of one of Mr Mugabe's most virulent campaigns is another humiliating defeat in the last few months. Observers say it reduces his already questionable continued tenure as head of state.



A firefighter rescues a Peruvian child from a mudslide that engulfed the mountain village of San Mateo at the weekend (Gabriella Gamini writes). Several dozen residents, including at least 20 children, were rescued from

Andeans flee mudslide

their homes. Two neighbouring villages along the Central Andean Highway, 50 miles from Lima, were also covered in a huge

the most seriously injured by helicopter. The gales and heavy storms that caused the mudslides continued yesterday. Crops have been destroyed, and three bridges along the highway have collapsed.

Serb-Muslim deal defies Karadzic

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

THE most radical reshuffle in Bosnian politics since the civil war has seen Muslim deputies join moderate Serbs to form a majority in the new Bosnian Serb parliament. The Muslims, elected in November by absentee voters cleansed from their Serb territory homes, will travel to parliamentary sessions under special Nato protection.

Milorad Dodik, the moderate Serb who shaped the coalition and will be Prime Minister, said *Republika Srpska* was at last heading in the right direction. "We do not have anything to fear from the international community," he told the parliament in a stormy session in Bijeljina, still a stronghold for forces loyal to Radovan Karadzic, a war crimes suspect. "We only need to fear our ignorance and our incompetence." Dr Karadzic's hardliners, who

had blocked the parliament's formation for weeks, walked out of the session. Stoking their fury, Mr Dodik said the Serbian Orthodox Church should "stay out of politics". He also talked of privatising the economy and of ending Dr Karadzic's political influence.

Mr Dodik was among the few Bosnian Serbs to distance himself from ethnic cleansing and he consistently opposed links with Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia itself. The reshuffle is a blow for Mr Milosevic, now Yugoslav President, making it more difficult for him to exert real influence in *Republika Srpska*. Mr Dodik is also an important ally for President Plavsic, who has sometimes looked isolated in her pro-Western policies.

"Karadzic's boys really hate Dodik, which has to be a good sign," said a local

official with the National Democratic Institute, a Washington-based lobby that has worked with Mr Dodik. The Karadzic clique is far from dead, however, as was shown by last week's organised riots that prevented Muslim councillors entering the Serb stronghold of Srebrenica.

Washington: White House advisers are set to recommend that the US remove only 1,500 of its 8,500 troops in Bosnia after the June withdrawal deadline (Bronwen Maddox writes). The recommendation, yet to receive the President's backing, emerged from a White House meeting last week, according to *The Washington Times*.

The size of the force, part of the Nato mission, has been debated intensely since Mr Clinton acknowledged last month that some troops would stay.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Rebels capture diamond town

Freetown: Thousands of people are fleeing the Sierra Leone diamond town of Tongoh after its capture by heavily armed Kamajor hunters in a battle with troops loyal to the military Government, relief agency officials said yesterday.

The traditional hunters took the town — the country's second largest diamond field and a key source of government revenue — on Saturday after wearing down defending forces in a two-week siege. Colonel John Milton, a junta spokesman, said that close to 1,000 hunters had attacked. Refugees were heading for the eastern capital of Kenema, 12 miles away. The Kamajors oppose the junta that toppled President Kabbah in May and have made repeated attacks against the army. (Reuters)

Anti-abortion line defeated

Washington: Republicans overwhelmingly threw out a proposal to deny party funding to candidates who did not support a ban on late, or "partial birth", abortions (Bronwen Maddox writes). The resolution, defeated 114-43 at the Republican National Committee's meeting in Palm Springs, California, threatened to handicap the party in this year's crucial congressional elections.

Killer blast traps coalminers

Moscow: A methane gas explosion at a Russian coalmine in the arctic Vorkuta region killed at least four miners and injured five. About 24 others were trapped, and by last night hopes of finding them alive were diminishing rapidly. The explosion occurred when miners were working at a depth of 2,970ft. Twenty-two miners, five of them injured, reached the surface. (AP)

EU team in Algiers talks

London: A European Union delegation headed by Derek Fatchett, a Foreign Office minister, arrives in Algiers today for talks with the military-backed Algerian Government on the country's increasing violence (Michael Binyon writes). The three ministers, from Britain, Austria and Luxembourg, will also meet opposition members of parliament and newspaper editors.

Renoir price collapses

Tokyo: A Renoir bought for \$78.1 million by a Japanese company at the height of the country's economic boom has been sold at a loss by the financially-strapped firm, a Japanese daily reported. A Daishowa Paper subsidiary has sold *Le Moulin de la Galette* to an unidentified buyer for \$50 million (£30.6 million). The painting had been offered as collateral for a loan. (Reuters)

El Niño fires hit Tasmania

Hobart: Fires caused by El Niño, the weather phenomenon heightening the nation's hot and dry conditions, flared again in Australia, destroying at least five homes and casting a pall of smoke over Tasmania. Emergency services sealed off some hillside suburbs to prevent people from straying near two large blazes burning on the fringes of Hobart, the state capital. (AP)

Building bridges to peace

Manila: President Ramos of the Philippines has approved a programme to hire former Muslim guerrillas to build 163 cement bridges in southern Philippine areas where they used to destroy them, officials said. Former rebels of the Moro National Liberation Front will be trained by British engineers. (AP)

ADVERTISEMENT

Switching Mortgages is Easy

Competitive and flexible mortgages without moving. CALL 0800 810 810 – FREE

Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct offer mortgages that are widely recognised as being among the most competitive and flexible from any lender today. Less well known, however, is the fact that they are available to all home owners, not just to buyers of new properties.

At the heart of Bank of Scotland's mortgage policy is the concept that not only do individual customers have individual circumstances, those circumstances are likely to change, sometimes radically, over the mortgage term. 'Flexibility,' says Ronnie Macaulay, Director of Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct, 'is the key word. While many lenders claim flexibility, none can match what we have built into our Personal Choice and Preferential Rate Mortgages.'

With a Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct Personal Choice Mortgage you can:

- Reduce or increase your monthly payments* any time you want to, or take a payment holiday* of up to six months. Very helpful when your income fluctuates or is temporarily interrupted.**
- Make ten payments a year instead of twelve. Helps with the Christmas and holiday bills.**

- Repay lump sums of £500 or more or even repay your mortgage in full without penalty. Invest any unexpected capital in your property.**
- Enjoy a competitive interest rate of 8.69% variable (9.1% Typical APR) and borrow up to 95% of the property value.
- When you need cash, raise up to 5% of your property value with cheque book access and add it to your mortgage.*
- Use your mortgage to release capital from your property. Raise up to £50,000 from equity in your property – maybe useful for other projects.**

With a Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct Preferential Rate Mortgage you can:

- Obtain a preferential rate of 7.99% variable (8.3% Typical APR) when you borrow up to 85% of the property value.
- Use your mortgage to release capital from your property. Raise up to £50,000 from equity in your property – maybe useful for other projects.**

Remortgage your current property by switching to Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct.

The solicitors fees in connection with the remortgage are paid by the bank – provided you use the Bank's Panel Solicitors. The valuation fee is also refunded on drawdown of the mortgage.

*An unusual feature of the Personal Choice Mortgage is that there is no restriction on the number of times that monthly payments can be increased or decreased, or payment holidays taken. The only proviso is that an agreed overall balance is maintained.



Mr and Mrs Allen are aged 48 and 47 and live in Liverpool. They have two children who are at school: James (13) and Sarah (16) who is entering the sixth form this year. Mr Allen is a policeman and Mrs Allen a college lecturer.

The Allens are attracted to the flexibility of a Personal Choice Mortgage and the free remortgage package, because Mrs Allen is going to become self-employed and work from home providing special courses to senior students.

By transferring a mortgage of £70,000 against a property value of £120,000 they will be able to increase and decrease their monthly payments, take payment holidays, and pay in lump sums from time to time depending on how well Mrs Allen is doing.

They also intend to use their cheque book facility to help Sarah when she goes up to University in two years time.

Susan Oliver is aged 29 and single. She lives in Oxford and works as a freelance journalist. Susan intends studying for an MBA while continuing her work and is remortgaging her flat with a loan of £35,000 against a value of £65,000. She will raise capital of £10,000 with her Personal Choice Mortgage and use it to help to fund her studies.

The free remortgage package and not having to provide income information were key factors in her decision to switch her mortgage to Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct.

Use Bank of Scotland's free remortgage package to transfer your mortgage. Just telephone 0800 810 810 any day of the week between 8am and 10pm. The call is free and you will speak to experienced mortgage staff who are friendly, expert and helpful. In most cases provisional acceptance of a remortgage can be given there and then.

BANK OF SCOTLAND
MORTGAGES DIRECT*
CALL FREE ON
0800 810 810

The characters referred to are fictitious. All lending is subject to approval by the Bank of the applicant's financial status and valuation of the property. Full details and a written consumer credit quotation are available from Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct, PO Box 12394, Edinburgh EH12 9DL. The Bank requires security over the property and home building insurance for remortgage value. An acceptable life assurance policy is also required. To apply for a loan or mortgage you must be aged 18 or over. Bank of Scotland is a Representative only of STANDARD LIFE, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority, for its assistance, pension and unit trust business. Typical example: A Personal Choice Mortgage of £50,000 against a property valued at £100,000 would have an annual interest rate of 8.69% (current Mortgage Direct Personal Choice Rate) variable. Typical APR 9.1% and 300 gross monthly payments of £434.50 (net monthly payments of £401.31). MRRAS calculated under current legislation and may vary. At the end of 25 years £60,000 is payable. The total amount payable is £101,000 (plus £10,000 Valuation Fee and £300 Legal Fee for the taking of security). Rates correct at date of printing and are subject to variation. *The cheque book is not available on a mortgage of £24,000 or less. Bank of Scotland, Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct, Personal Choice and 50% are registered trademarks of The Bank of Scotland and Company. Bank of Scotland is a member of the Bank of Scotland Group. The Bank of Scotland is a member of the Bank of Scotland Group. The Bank of Scotland is a member of the Bank of Scotland Group.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

دكان من الادب

Kohl risks being booed off stage if euro-juggling act falters

Under the shadow of the euro volcano, Germany and the Netherlands are holding elections this year. The result is a strange meshing of issues.

Popular opposition to the euro in Germany has returned to the high levels of 1992. 71 per cent of the population now reject the scrapping of the mark. Helmut Kohl's popularity is rock-bottom, partly because the Chancellor is identified with the euro, but his Christian Democratic party is holding its ground.

In the Netherlands, the right-of-centre Liberals (VVD) have just overtaken

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

their coalition partners and rivals, the Labour Party (PvdA). Gerrit Zalm, the Finance Minister, is a Liberal. He has just insisted

that euro entry criteria be strictly applied and indicated that Italy would fall short. Wim Kok, the Labour Prime Minister, says there is no Dutch plan to ditch Italy.

It does not take much to guess, however, whose comments have earned the most applause. The Dutch are deeply in favour of the euro, but of one that is not watered down either by the inclusion of weak non-convergent currencies or by political interference. French resistance to the appointment of Wim Duisenberg as first head of the European Central Bank has stirred suspicion.

Italy is the key to persuading uneasy electorates that euro-management is in good hands. Herr Kohl talked to Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, last Monday and will visit Rome tomorrow. The Italians would naturally like to hear a ringing endorsement of Italian credentials for monetary union.

German officials say that if Herr Kohl were to make such a pledge in Rome he could turn the Constitutional Court against the euro: it is presently brooding on whether the euro gives adequate protection to Germany's rights. The real reason for the

Chancellor's residence on Italy is that he can only lose votes on the issue. Analysts show that German opposition to the euro would drop by between 10 and 20 per cent if Italy were excluded. The Bundesbank is as sceptical as the public.

Even a document released by the Italian Treasury, drawn up to reassure Rome's partners that it is on target, admitted that public debt would come to an estimated 122.5 per cent of gross domestic product in 1997, generously overshooting the Maastricht goal of 60 per cent. The debt level was "decreasing at an accelerating pace", said

the Italians, but it will take rather more than that to convince the Bundesbank and the Constitutional Court, which are both looking for signs of long-term stability.

Herr Kohl is said to be in sympathy with Italian membership, but he is prone to retreating under pressure. He has just abandoned his pledge to create two million new jobs by 2000. Faced with a Bundesbank report wary of Italian participation, a Constitutional Court ruling condemning him in the euro debt criteria, and signs of a stay-at-home protest among European Christian Democrat voters, Herr Kohl may well

make common cause with the Dutch against allowing Italy into the first wave.

This is the moment that Herr Kohl dreads: deciding who will be in or out of the new Europe. The official line remains that nothing can be settled until the 1997 figures are in. But the current task is to puzzle out how to compensate Italy if it has to be sidelined. One German idea is to put Signor Prodi forward as the next President of the European Commission.

This is the era not of firm leadership and grand strategic vision but of juggling

hence the present high standing of Jean-Claude Juncker the Luxembourg Prime Minister and a man with a good eye. The elements of personnel policy — head of the European Central Bank, head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, President of the Commission — have to be kept in the air along with the big political issues. Is Herr Kohl still up to it, or has he become more butterfingers?

Watch the fluctuating relationship between Bonn and Rome: it will almost certainly determine his future.

Oliver Letwin, page 20

Questions raised by Swiss on 'fixed' quiz

BY ROGER BOYES

FOR the Swiss there is only one \$64,000 question: who has been rigging the country's top television quiz show?

Tommaso Ramundo, not only swept the board in the game *Risiko* (Risk), he also astounded with his prescience. Asked for the name of the president of the Swiss Holocaust fund (correct answer: Rolf Bloch), he replied "Viorol Moldovan" — the answer to the following, unasked question about a football player.

Mr Ramundo, an economics student who went on to win SwF95,000 (£39,250), claims that it was a coincidence. However, Swiss television has laid charges against "persons unknown" for fraud.

It is, in fact, very easy to find out quiz questions in advance. The real questions are used in the rehearsal in front of a studio audience two hours before the show goes on air.

Former contestants claim that pupils from visiting school parties offer the answers — at a price — before the show. Sound recordists, studio assistants and musicians also listen in to the rehearsal and are able to tip off candidates.

Swiss television now uses alternative questions in rehearsals and Mr Ramundo's prize money has been frozen until detectives give the answer to what exactly happened on *Risiko*.

Defiant Turkey bars Islamic party comeback

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

CRITICS as different as Iran and the US State Department have attacked Turkey's decision to outlaw the pro-Islamic Welfare Party.

Suleyman Demirel, the Turkish President, spent the weekend attempting to deflect such international criticism and coming to the defence of his country's constitutional court. The court decision to shut down the Welfare Party, the country's largest political group, and seize its assets and strip the party leader, Necmettin Erbakan, of his parliamentary seat seems likely to inflame an already sensitive situation. It is also likely that Mr Erbakan, 71, will face sedition charges.

Britain, which holds the EU presidency and which has been a champion of Ankara's closer integration into Europe, expressed concern "at the implications for democratic pluralism and freedom" in Turkey.

The country still struggles under the curse of the European Parliament when the courts banned the Democrat Party and sentenced four of its Kurdish nationalist MPs to imprisonment, including the Nobel peace prize nomi-

nee, Leyla Zana. Turkish relations with the EU are at an all-time low, however, after the Luxembourg summit failed to give Ankara a clear place in the enlargement process. Government officials are in no mood to listen to lectures on the quality of their democracy.

The criminal charges against Mr Erbakan would be the culmination of the vendetta started last February when the Turkish Army spearheaded a campaign to drive the Welfare Party-led coalition from office. Mr Erbakan was forced to resign in June to be replaced by a coalition.

It is impossible not to feel sorrow at the closure of Welfare. However, nobody has the right or privilege to violate the laws of the Republic of Turkey," Mr Demirel said. His views echo the secular press in Turkey, which blames the court for disenfranchising the 22 per cent of the electorate which voted for Mr Erbakan's party, but the Welfare itself which defied the constitution by acting against the secular nature of the state.

published, the remaining 147 Welfare MPs in the 550-seat parliament will at a stroke become independent.

Even if he stays out of jail, Mr Erbakan will be prevented from holding any party political office for the next five years. Legal opinion is divided as to whether he could run as an independent MP, but no one doubts he will try to remain the *eminence grise* of the powerful political movement he founded.

Vural Savas, Turkey's chief prosecutor, last night pledged to pursue through the courts any party which can be shown to be a direct successor to Welfare. Mr Erbakan was given a hero's welcome as he arrived in Istanbul to attend a meal to break the Ramadan fast. That display may be more difficult to maintain as the struggle intensifies for Mr Erbakan's crown. Some of the so-called moderates have warmly welcomed the court's decision, describing it as "an auspicious murder". Some believe that, like a Moses who showed them the way to political power, Mr Erbakan is too much a man of another era and too confrontational to keep them there.



THIS 2ft statue of Pharaoh Pepi I, at 4,300 years old the most ancient metal sculpture in the world, went on display for the first time in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo yesterday, after 18 months of

Ancient metal king unveiled

restoration (Michael Murphy writes). The statue was found in 1899 inside a life-sized copper

statue of the same king in a temple near Edfu, in southern Egypt, preserved by the constant temperature of the surrounding mud and sand. Pepi ruled from 2289 to 2255 BC.

Welfare rally puts squeeze on Jospin

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRENCH job-seekers are likely to win further concessions from the country's left-wing Government this week after a weekend of noisy demonstrations across France. Thousands of people gathered in the biggest show of support yet for welfare claimants, and some went on to gatecrash elite hotels and restaurants in the capital.

With anti-Maastricht campaigners staging a protest in Paris yesterday, Lionel Jospin is planning initiatives in an attempt to end his first serious difficulties since becoming Prime Minister in June. He is preparing to announce welfare payment rises and a fresh drive to reduce the working week in the hope of creating jobs for the 3.1 million unemployed. Aides say he will appear on television and give at least two important speeches this week.

More than 10,000 people marched through Paris on Saturday and there were similar protests in other French cities. The unemployed are demanding a Fr1,500 (£151) a month increase in benefit and an extension of the minimum payment — currently Fr2,200 a month — to people under 25.

The Paris demonstration ended in violence as about 300 militants stormed the Ecole Normale Supérieure, France's leading teacher training college. They threw petrol bombs as they barged through riot police. Another group of about 30 job-seekers demanded, and won, a free dinner at one of the capital's most elegant restaurants, La Coupole. At the plush Hotel Lutetia they obtained a roof for the night and then breakfast.

With 70 per cent of French people backing the claimants, according to a recent opinion poll, M Jospin has indicated a willingness to meet some — although not all — of their demands.

The Prime Minister's troubles are not limited to unemployment. Yesterday's demonstration supporting calls for a second Maastricht referendum, which drew 4,000 people, was organised by the Communist Party — on which the Government depends for a parliamentary majority. The party's move highlighted Cabinet differences.

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

Eat out for £5

Today we launch *The Times Eat Out for £5 Restaurant Guide* 1998 which is bigger and better than ever. The free guide, inserted with today's newspaper, lists more than 800 restaurants throughout the British Isles where you can enjoy a fabulous two-course meal — and in some establishments three courses — for only £5. At many restaurants you will also be able to have a free glass of wine included in the price.

Simply collect two differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and/or *The Sunday Times* and attach them to the voucher below. This entitles you and up to five friends to have a meal at one of our participating restaurants for only £5 a head.

Bookings must be made in advance and you should tell the restaurant you want *The Times* £5 offer. You should also confirm what your £5 meal will be. The offer is valid until February 28, 1998. Full terms and conditions are in your guide. If you did not get a copy of our restaurant guide with today's *Times*, please send an A4-size snc, with a 39p stamp attached, to: *Eat Out for £5 Guide*, PO Box 481, Customer Services, Level 6, Virginia Street, London E1 9BD.



ARRANGEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO OUR GUIDE

LEASANT Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01525 290280. **LEASANT**, Maresfield, Sussex, W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses and free glass of wine. Dinner 7 days 3 courses. Tel: 01323 43211. **LEASANT**, Old Cornhill, St. W.1. Lunch 7 days 3 courses. Dinner 2 courses. Tel: 0171-439 2275. **LEASANT**, South Parade, Bath, W.1. Lunch - M, T, W, Th, F - 2 courses. Tel: 01225 400441. **LEASANT**, The Bull Inn, Bedford Street, Milton Keynes. Lunch - M, T, W,

Singapore hit by job losses as Asia storm bites

SINGAPORE'S boast that it would remain largely unaffected by Asia's economic storms has taken a severe knock with one of its high-tech flagships laying off workers.

The city state's second-largest employer, Seagate Technology, a US computer disk-drive maker, is dismissing 1,800 employees, about 10 per cent of its workforce, and several hundred contract workers. Strong pricing strategies by South Korean and Japanese disk-drive makers were blamed for the sackings, which cast a pall over trade-driven Singapore yesterday. The Government and unions were trying to find employment for those dismissed.

In this brash, super-confident city state of three million, there is no sense of the kind of panic seen elsewhere in East Asia — no cash-strapped yuppies have committed suicide as in Thailand. But Singaporeans are bracing

James Pringle
in Singapore
finds the Year of the Tiger may be more like a lamb

themselves for tougher times. Analysts agree that the financial turmoil which has brought misery to much of the region will have some effect. Tony Tan, the Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister, gave a warning this month of a possible regional recession and "temporary pains".

The traditional Chinese new year celebrations look like being low-key, with families cutting back. The market for traditional Chinese New Year fare is down by as much as 20 per cent. The Year of the Tiger

may come in more like a lamb. Though Singapore — one of Asia's original dragons and a regional centre for trade, transport, banking, tourism and communications — is less dramatically affected than its two larger neighbours, Indonesia and Malaysia, consumers are being more careful with their money.

Singapore has fared relatively well during the six-month Asian economic meltdown, seemingly thanks to strong economic management and massive foreign reserves.

But one analyst said: "Singapore is going to be hurt as Malaysia exports less through the port here. Trade will certainly suffer and growth is going to slow across all sectors of the economy. When you add it all up, it will be quite a serious knock."

Estimates for growth this year average 4.4 per cent, compared to 7 per cent last year, though some forecasts



An Indonesian girl in Jakarta joins about 2,000 Muslims in prayers for an end to the economic crisis. Troops and police remained on alert yesterday in two towns after a spate of looting by armed gangs and protests against price rises caused by the country's financial problems.

put it as low as 1.8 per cent. Shares in companies that build industrial parks and beach resorts have fallen sharply and property shares are weak as Indonesians facing liquidity problems put properties on the market.

Residential prices are falling and share prices are down by 43 per cent compared with a year ago.

The Singapore dollar plummeted 16 per cent against the US dollar in the second half of last year, to its lowest in more

than six years. There are stories of people switching their savings accounts into dollars at local branches of US banks.

Singapore's woes are partly caused by its proximity to Indonesia, which has just

received a \$43 billion bail-out from the International Monetary Fund. Many Indonesians send their children to school in this well-disciplined, drug-free city-state, while others visit for medical and dental treatment. The education and medical sectors of the economy are likely to suffer, analysts say. There are also reports that architectural firms are preparing to cut staff by 25 per cent because of a shortage of new projects.

Cash-strapped Japanese, South Korean, Thai, Indonesian and Malaysian visitors are staying away, hitting the tourist industry upon which

Singapore depends heavily. But what really worries many people in Singapore, where people of Chinese origin make up 77 per cent of the population, is the possibility of anti-Chinese riots breaking out in Indonesia, which could destabilise the region.

Some analysts predict that Singapore's sound fundamentals will insulate the island from Asia's currency crashes. Others, however, say it is paying the price for its once soaring ambitions and hubris in a region that has become a byword for profligate lending, corruption, nepotism and bad management.

20% DEPOSIT.

0% FINANCE OVER 3 YEARS.

100% CHUFFED.



Bravo HLX

- Remote control central locking and alarm.
- Power steering. • ABS.
- Electric sunroof and mirrors.
- 6 speaker radio-cassette.
- Heated seats.
- Bravo range from £10,780.

Finance Examples	Bravo 1.4i	Bravo 1.6 HLX (Metallic)
Cash Price*	£10,780.23	£14,195.96
Deposit	£2,176.23	£2,763.96
Deposit %	20%	20%
Amount Financed	£8,604.00	£11,432.00
36 Monthly Repayments	£239.00	£317.00
Total Amount Payable	£10,780.23	£14,195.96
APR %	0.0%	0.0%

This'll put a smile on your face. You can buy a stunning Fiat Bravo for a mere 20% deposit. What Car? Magazine agrees and boasts "There isn't a more stylish car in the class".

Call 0800 71 7000, <http://www.fiat.co.uk> or visit your local Fiat dealer for more information.

FIAT

FIAT BRAVO

*CAR SHOWN: FIAT BRAVO 1.6 HLX AT £14,195.96 ON THE ROAD (WITH METALLIC PAINT). PRICE INCLUDES £20 FOR DELIVERY TO DEALER, NUMBER PLATE, VAT AND 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE AND IS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRESS. GOING TO PRESS 20/1/97. 0% FINANCE OFFER REQUIRES A MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF 20% AVAILABLE TO ANYONE AGED 18 AND OVER, SUBJECT TO STATUS. THIS OFFER CANNOT BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. A GUARANTEE AND/OR INDEMNITY MAY BE REQUIRED. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM FIAT AUTO FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED, PO BOX 17009, EDINBURGH EH12 5YK.

Cook treads lightly on trip to China

BY JAMES PRINGLE

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, arrives in China today to dance a delicate diplomatic minuet to raise delicate human rights issues with Beijing while attempting to expand Britain's trade with the Communist giant.

Britain has been using its presidency of the European Union to encourage its 14 fellow member states to adopt a single line on human rights in China.

Mr Cook failed to see the released Chinese dissident, Wei Jingsheng, during his recent visit to Britain. The Foreign Secretary has called for the release of Mr Wei, who has spent years in prison for his peaceful interest in rights. Mr Wei instead met Derek Fitchett, a junior minister at the Foreign Office.

Beijing calls Mr Wei, a former electrician who has spent years in labour camps for calling for "the fifth modernisation — democracy — a criminal, and it seems likely



Wei was rebuffed by Cook on London visit

that Mr Cook felt a meeting would reduce the prospects of progress in his first official visit to China and Hong Kong. Mr Cook will also be emphasising Britain's continuing commitment to the people of Hong Kong. He is likely to express general satisfaction with China's performance in its running of the former British colony, despite the eroding of democratic institutions.

BEAT THIS!

NEWEST
NOKIA 3110
£29.99
NOW ONLY
£9.99

FREE PHILIPS DIGITAL HOME ANSWERPHONE

FREE 6 MONTHS LINE RENTAL IN YEAR 2 WORTH £105

FREE 24 HOUR NOTES

FREE PORTABLE HANDS FREE KIT WORTH £45

FREE 12 MONTHS CARRY CASE (TAPE ADAPTOR)

FREE 12 MONTHS INSURANCE WORTH £12

FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY

FREE SECOND BILLING

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

FREE 12 MONTHS WARRANTY

Young love in the Fifties: Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath's passion is confirmed by marriage and domesticity

A secret wedding and a sumptuous sofa

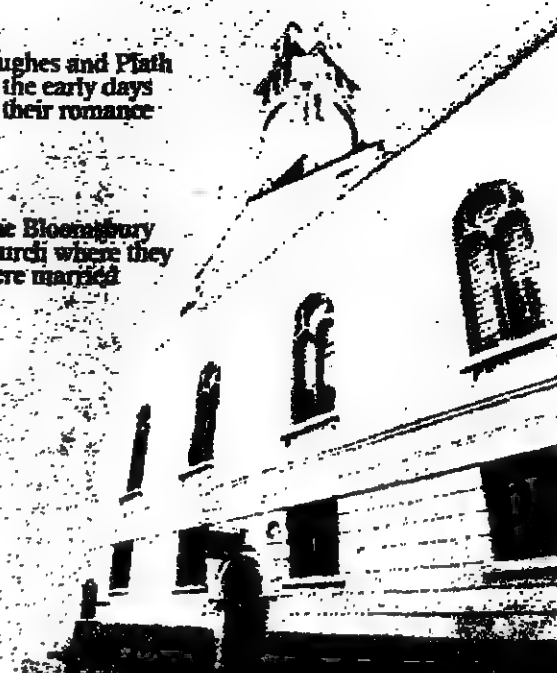


Erica Wagner introduces the second part of the literary love affair that turned to tragedy



Hughes and Plath in the early days of their romance

The Bloomsbury church where they were married



Pink Wool Knitted Dress

Day of ribbons and roses

SYLVIA PLATH and Ted Hughes were married at St George the Martyr in Bloomsbury on June 16, 1956. The wedding was "a huge and miraculous secret", as she wrote to her brother Warren two days later. Plath was concerned that the college authorities at Newnham and the Fulbright Commission would cancel her scholarship if they found she had married.

"The Victorian virgins wouldn't see how I could concentrate with being married to such a handsome virile man," she wrote. Although the fear proved unfounded, the privacy of the event was strict. Her mother attended the wedding; none of his family did. There were no photographs. To Warren she wrote of the "lovely pink knitted suit dress (Mummy) brought, and me in that and a pink hair ribbon and a pink rose from Ted, standing with the rain pouring outside in the dim little church...". They spent their wedding night in Rugby Street, and then eventually went on to Paris with Aurelia Plath before spending the summer in Benidorm. This was the beginning of a long and eventually tragic quest for a place where the two poets, with the different backgrounds which Hughes makes so clear in these poems, could live in some sort of shared creativity and peace.

In your pink wool knitted dress
Before anything had smudged anything
You stood at the altar. Bloomsday.

Rain - so that a just-bought umbrella
Was the only furnishing about me
Newer than three years' used.
My tie - sole, drab, veteran RAF black
Was the used-up symbol of a tie.
My cord jacket - thrice-dyed black, exhausted,
Just hanging on to itself.

I was a post-war, utility son-in-law.
Not quite the Frog-Prince. Maybe the Swineherd.
Stealing this daughter's pedigree dreams
From under her watchtowered searchlight future.

No ceremony could conscript me
Out of my uniform. I wore my whole wardrobe -
Except for the odd, spare identical item.
My wedding, like Nature, wanted to hide.

However - if we were going to be married
It had better be Westminster Abbey. Why not?
The Dean told us why not. That is how
I learned that I had a Parish Church.
St George of the Chimney Sweeps.
So we squeezed into marriage finally.
Your mother, brave even in this
US Foreign Affairs gamble.
Acted all bridesmaids and all guests.
Even - magnanimity - represented
My family.
Who had heard nothing about it.
I had invited only their ancestors.
I had not even confided my theft of you
To a closest friend. For Best Man - my squire.
To hold the meanwhile rings -
We had requisitioned the sexton. Twist of the outrage.
He was packing children into a bus.
Taking them to the Zoo - in that downpour!
All the prison animals had to be patient
While we married.

You were transfigured.
So slender and new and naked,
A nodding spray of wet lilac.
You shook, you sobbed with joy, you were ocean depth
Brimming with God.
You said you saw the heavens open
And show riches, ready to drop on us.
Levitated beside you, I stood subjected
To a strange tense: the spellbound future.

In that echo-gaunt, weekday chancel
I see you
Wrestling to contain your flames
In your pink wool knitted dress
And in your eye-pupils - great cut jewels
Jostling their tear-flames, truly like big jewels
Shaken in a dice-cup and held up to me.

TOMORROW

Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath move to America and spend a happy summer in Benidorm. Hughes returns to England and Plath remains in America. Their marriage begins to surface.

Demons start to niggle

AFTER their summer in Benidorm, Hughes and Plath returned to England, first going to Heptonstall, Hughes's Yorkshire home. Fearful of the loss of Plath's scholarship, they had planned to live apart but finally announced their marriage to the authorities - to congratulations, not wrath. One of Plath's staunchest supporters in the Newnham faculty was Dorothea Krook, her supervisor, referred to in the next poem. Wendy is Wendy Christie, a South African friend of Plath's who sat in on some of Plath's supervisions. Hughes had been asked by the BBC to record some of Yeats's poems; Plath was beginning the second year of her course. Together they found a flat - 55, Eltisey Avenue, not far from Grantchester Meadows.

Despite "ghastly yellow" walls, Plath appeared delighted with their new home: "The rent is £4 a week, plus expenses for gas, light, phone and coal. We'll keep the place extravagantly warm!" She wrote gaily to her mother: "It even has two apple trees in the ragged little back yard and a bay tree. It's got pots and pans, old kitchen silver and a few old sheets for the double bed. I'll make it like an ad out of *House and Garden* with Ted's help...". But 55 Eltisey, with its references to Plath's hated "Daddy" and her Bell Jar, hints that already there were darker undercurrents in the marriage. Dorothea Krook would later remark on glimpsing at this time in Plath "the passionate rage which has since come to be recognised as a dominating emotion of her poetry"; and Plath's journals reveal the sexual jealousy that stirs this poem.

Our first home has forgotten us.
I saw when I drove past it
How slight our lives had been
To have left not a trace. When we first moved in there
I looked for omens.
Vacated by a widow gathered to her family
All it told me was: "Her life is over."
She had left the last blood of her husband
Staining a pillow. Their whole story
Hung - a miasma - round that stain.
Senility's sour odour. It had condensed
Like a grease on the cutlery. It confirmed
Your idea of England: part
Nursing home, part morgue
For something partly dying, partly dead.
Just so the grease-grimed shelves, the tacky, dark walls

Of the hutch of a kitchen revolted you
Into a fury of scouring. I studied the blood.
Was it mouth-blood, or ear-blood.
Or the blood of a head-wound, after some fall?
I took possession before
Anything of ours had reconditioned
That crypt of old griefs and its stale gas
Of a dead husband. I claimed our first home
Alone and slept in it alone.
Only trying not to inhale the ghost
That clung on in the breath of the bed.
His death and her bereavement
Were the sole guests at our house-warming.
We spilt ten pounds on a sumptuous Chesterfield
Of Prussian blue velvet. Our emergency
Kit of kitchen gadgets adapted
That rented, abandoned, used-up grubbiness
To the shipyard and ritual launching
Of our expedition. One mirage
Of the world as it is and has to be
Seemed no worse than another. Already
We were beyond the Albatross.
You yourself were a whole Antarctic sea
Between me and your girl-friends. You were pack-ice
Between me and any possible mention
Of my might-have-beens. I had accepted
The meteorological phenomena
That kept your compass steady.
Like polar apparitions only Wendy
And Dorothea, by being visionary
Fairy godmothers, were forgiven their faces.
I pitied your delirium of suspicion.
Through the rainbow darkness I plodded.
Hand in hand we plodded. For me, that home
Was our first camp, our first winter,
Where I was happy to stare at a candle.
For you, it was igloo comfort.
Your Bell Jar centrally heated
By a stupefying paraffin heater.
But you were happy too, warming your hands
At the crystal ball.
Of your heirloom paperweight. Inside it,
There, in miniature, was your New England Christmas.
A Mummy and a Daddy, still together
Under the whirling snow, and our future.

© Ted Hughes, 1998. Extracted from *BIRTHDAY LETTERS* by Ted Hughes published by Faber and Faber Ltd. at £14.99 on 29 January 1998. It is available to Times readers now by calling the Times Bookshop on 0990 134 459

Renewing your home insurance in January or February?

If you are 50 or over, you could save with Saga, call us NOW

You will know how expensive home insurance can be. Thankfully, if you are aged 50 or over you can benefit from Saga Home Insurance, a superior household insurance that is only available to mature, responsible people like you.

Saga Home Insurance covers a wide range of properties including Grade I and II listed buildings and converted barns.

The Saga Price Promise For New Customers

If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out Saga Home Insurance, we will refund you the difference.

SAGA INSURANCE SERVICES

Saga Insurance Services, FREEPOST 731, Middleburg Square, Folkestone CT20 1AJ

Saga Insurance Services would like to send you information about other Saga products and services and may pass your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

Why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE



- Insurance cover is comprehensive and low cost
- FREE 24 hour domestic emergency and legal helpline
- FREE pen with your quotation

Call us today
For your free no obligation quote simply call us on the number below. To help us help you, please have all relevant details to hand when you call.

0800 414 525
quoting reference TM1807

Live open Monday to Friday 9.30am - 7pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

Nowhere to run on New York's mean streets

Amy Finnerty, a pretty, petite New Yorker, jogs every day in Central Park. For her and thousands of others in the city, this is a daily ritual, just as it is in the Gauges would be to devout Hindus.

Imagine my shock, therefore, when Amy told me over dinner the other night that she was thinking of giving jogging a break.

"I can't take it any more," she said wearily. "There's just too much aggression out there." She looked despondent, bereaved even, as if an entire way of life were coming to an end.

Amy was referring to "jogger's rage", a disturbing new genre of bad behaviour that is sweeping through New York like a plague. A form of road rage on two legs, it manifests itself daily on the city's parks and pavements. Belligerent runners are now asserting a right to joggers' territory in a manner not unlike Hitler's Panzer divisions.

That morning, Amy, who was jogging slowly on a rather narrow track, had been shoved aside by a hostile man, who bellowed: "Get outa my way, ya stupid woman!" She fell heavily to the ground, her ankle twisted and her confidence bruised, while her assailant simply jogged on.

Her experience is a common one. A male friend was jostled last week by a large man jogging with an equally large dog. My friend, who is training for next year's New York Marathon, is now reviewing his jogging future.

He told me his tale of woe: "I was trotting along at a civilised pace when this brute just pushed past me, shoulder first," he says. "He swore at me for being in the way. When I responded with an 'I say, old chap, there's no need for that' - or words to that effect - he threatened to set his dog on me. And the bloody dog growled, as if on cue."

Another friend, Geoff Stead, is Australian and thicker-skinned than most, but even he was unhappy at being a victim last week of a perverse form of jogger's aggression.

"My path was blocked by a family of four - Mum, Dad and two teenage sons - all running abreast," he says. "They wouldn't let me pass. When I tried to squeeze around them they blocked my way, and seemed to slow down deliberately to get a rise out of me. This carried on for five minutes, then I pulled to a halt and said 'You're a generous bunch, aren't you?' To which the mum said: 'You'll just have to come back when we're not here, won't you?' And they laughed like hyenas."

WEDNESDAY

New-look Interface - The Queen goes online. Plus: Crème de la Crème - the new 16-page supplement for secretaries

To us French isn't second nature... it's first!

Scheduled Courses:
2-4 hours a week or intensive
Beginners to Advanced
Conversational, Specialised and Diploma courses
GCSE and 'A' Level Revision

Tailor-made Tuition:
In-company tuition
One to one tuition
Immersion courses

Call now for a free brochure
0171 723 7471



Alliance Française de Londres 1 Dorset Square, London NW1 6PU and 4 Mowat St, London WC1B 3AN
E-mail: info@alliancefrancaiseuk.org.uk

Discover Iceland ... for free

Just imagine it, you and 200 other adventurers sipping a cold G&T in a geothermal hot pool, after a tough days trekking in spectacular volcanic scenery. After that, you settle down into your sleeping bag, under the stars.

Except there aren't any. It's midnight and broad daylight. It's Iceland, in the summer of 1998.

Think you can survive 9 days trekking through a stunning but demanding landscape?

Can you handle the inevitable end of tour party, in Europe's liveliest city Reykjavik? (It can't help but go on till daylight.)

Are you free this August? Then, so is this incredible trip.

You'll raise money for children who can't walk, and for whom getting out of the front door is a major expedition.

So this summer don't sit home watching The Holiday Show, come and experience the real thing. Call for an information pack and application form on 0990 112212.



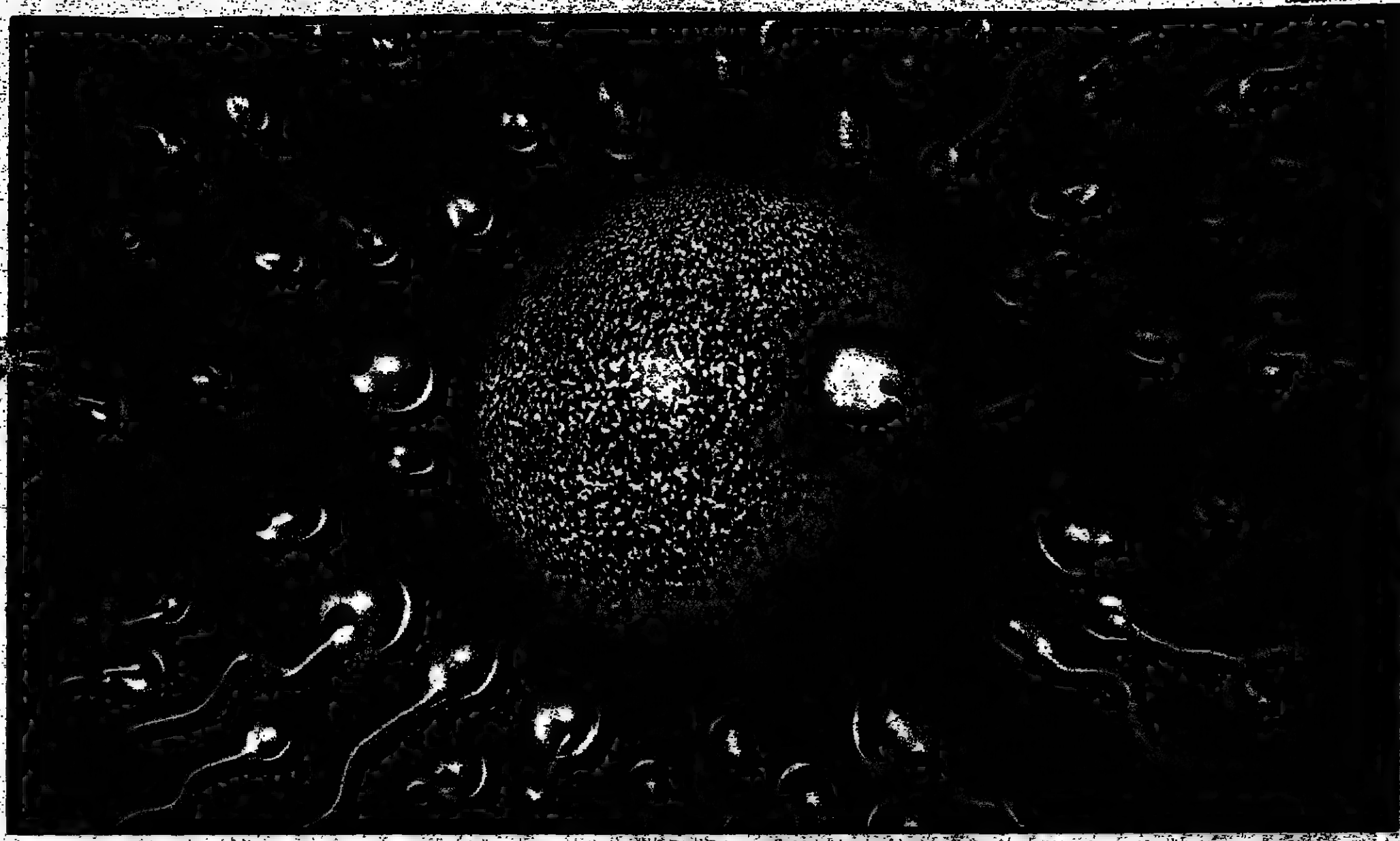
THE MOVEMENT FOR NON-MOBILE CHILDREN
Registered Charity No. 902873

Infidelity: women's secret weapon

SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

BABY WARS

Why do some couples struggle to have a baby? Why are 10 per cent of children not the offspring of their supposed fathers? In a first extract from their extraordinary new book, *Baby Wars*, Dr Robin Baker and Elizabeth Oram explain the untold secrets of conception.



If the man and the moment seem right, ovulation, and hence conception, can be triggered by intercourse. If the man and the moment are not right, intercourse may inhibit ovulation.

According to the doctor, it was good news. Her tubes were clear, her womb looked healthy, she was ovulating and her hormone profile was as it should be. He had perhaps slightly fewer sperm than expected and slightly more with strange-shaped heads, but nothing that wasn't within the normal range for a fertile man. As far as the doctor could see there was nothing to stop them having a baby in the normal way, and all he could recommend was that they should keep on trying.

"Why not take a holiday?" was his parting shot. "Go and enjoy yourselves."

They were very quiet on the way home, relief and confusion mingling in their minds. Both felt an irrational tinge of disappointment that the other hadn't been found to have a problem. The prospect of carrying on trying, with no explanation of what they might be doing wrong, filled them with dismay — and boredom.

The weekend before their holiday, they had a visit from their out-of-town friends and their two children. They were

passing through and would stay overnight. Invariably, whenever the two couples met and the children were in bed, the women would get slightly drunk, and their partners a lot more so. When the men were slumped in their chairs, asleep, the two women talked about former lovers.

After briefly drifting off to sleep, the woman got out of bed, showered, pulled on a bathrobe and went downstairs to start on the messy kitchen they had abandoned the night before. Fifteen minutes later her partner appeared, herded noisily along

by their visitors' children who were urging him to take them to the shop. He insisted on having a cup of coffee first. As he drank, the children's mother entered the kitchen. She too felt like a walk, so she would go along with them.

Scarcely had they closed the door when the children's father, in a badly dressed tracksuit, joined the hostess in the kitchen. As the woman pulled on her rubber gloves to deal with the mess in the sink, he made them both some coffee. They spoke little, relaxed in each other's company after so many years' acquaint-

ance. He asked where she wanted her coffee. Still busy at the sink, she indicated the window ledge in front of her. He came up behind her and, losing his balance slightly, steadied himself by resting his hands on her waist and hips. The unexpected contact and proximity sent an immediate surge of sexual chemistry through both their bodies.

They both froze, confused by the events of the past few seconds. He eased her back against him and made the tiniest of movements — enough to send her a signal, but little enough for them both to pretend it hadn't happened, if necessary. After a moment, it was the woman who broke the silence.

"Do it," she said, without moving her body an inch. "Just do it." There was more anger than passion in her quiet but determined voice. Three minutes later, the whole process was over.

They were just decent and moving apart when the children ran into the kitchen, and thanks to their boisterous nature the uneasy of the unfaithful pair went unnoticed. After lunch, the visitors set off on their journey and the other two returned to their normal routine. A few days later they went on holiday. They had sex at least every day and felt happier and more positive about their relationship than they had for some time.

Two weeks after returning home he woke to the sound of her being sick, and that same day a test confirmed that she was pregnant. They were all parents now — or so they thought.

So what happened? Why should a couple with no apparent medical problems suddenly conceive after nearly two years of failure? On the surface, they were co-operating as much as they possibly could. Any disagreement, therefore, had to be subconscious, and when we look at the way things turned out, there is more than a hint that the woman's body was playing a different and more covert game than the man's. Both

consciously and subconsciously, he had been doing his best to get his partner to conceive, and consciously the woman had been doing her best to co-operate. Unknown to either of them, however, her body may have been delaying conception, waiting for the right moment, and perhaps even the right man. It is more than likely that the genetic father of the child born at the end of her conception campaign was not her partner, but her friend's partner — he with whom she

or even weeks, that follow. This holding period is an opportunity to collect sperm, perhaps just from her partner, perhaps not, perhaps just from one man, perhaps from two or more. In part, whether or not she ovulates will depend on how her body feels about the man or men from whom she has collected sperm. But most of all it will depend on how it feels about trying to produce a baby in the circumstances. If the man and the moment seem right, ovulation,

returns home briefly (on week-end leave, perhaps), are all more likely than routine intercourse to lead to conception on these days of the cycle. This does not mean that a woman's long-term partner cannot also trigger her to ovulate through routine intercourse. It is just that she is less likely to respond so positively to him under routine circumstances than she is to him, or to other men, in one-off encounters.

In addition to this apparent ability to ovulate in response to opportunity, a woman's hormones make her more receptive to a lover, as opposed to her regular partner, while her body is "on hold". As well as being much more likely to have sex with a lover during the holding period, a woman is programmed by her hormones to change her behaviour. Studies of the amount of time women spend on their own reveal that whereas those who have no long-term partner show little change during the menstrual cycle, those with long-term partners spend less time with them and more time exploring new places during their most fertile phase. And, while out of sight of their partner, they dress and behave more provocatively.

Researchers in a Viennese discotheque took pictures of women and measured both the amount of bare skin they were revealing and how tight-fitting and transparent were their clothes. The women then had their saliva tested for oestrogen level. Those who had long-term partners but had left them at home for a night out "with the girls" were much more likely to dress provocatively during the fertile phase of their cycle, when oestrogen levels were high, than at other times. Women without long-term partners at home showed no such variation.

The implication is that until a woman has a long-term partner to support her, she does not seek one-off intercourse during the "on



Studies show that wealthy men reproduce earlier

had had intercourse one Sunday morning while washing the dishes. And the reason is as follows.

There is a feature of a woman's menstrual cycle that has evolved specifically to allow her to take advantage of situations such as that illustrated. In the days after a period has started, a woman's body goes through a series of hormonal changes that prepare it to produce an egg but about two days before ovulation can occur, her body effectively goes "on hold". Whether she eventually produces an egg or not depends on what happens in the days,

and hence conception, can be triggered by intercourse. If the man and the moment are not right, sex may not influence, or may even inhibit, ovulation.

What is the evidence for this? Between days 14 and 35 of her cycle (taking the first day of bleeding as day one) a woman is much more likely to conceive from one-off intercourse than she is from routine intercourse with her long-term partner. A one-off encounter with a lover, or even with a long-term partner who

BETTER SLEEP!

ON THE TEMPUR® MATTRESS

Relieves back pain and aching joints

Reduces stress

Can help to relieve arthritis & rheumatic conditions

Relieves sciatic pain

Better quality sleep

Pressure relief

Hypo-allergenic

Superior comfort

10 year warranty

15 Year Limited Guarantee

OR WE WILL BUY IT BACK!

ORDER NOW ON FREEPHONE 0800 616135

or to find out more return the coupon to: Tempur Pedic (UK) Ltd., FREEPOST (HA 4653) Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8BR; or Fax to: 0181 246 2360

Please send me details on the Tempur® Mattress & Pillow

Name _____
Tel No. _____
Address _____

Post Code _____
T 191/98

TEMPUR
PRESSURE RELIEVING MATTRESS & PILLOW

Clinically Researched

Clinical Research shows that you may toss and turn 80% less on the Tempur® Mattress in comparison to other mattresses. Research also shows, due to this huge reduction in movement, your quality of sleep can be dramatically improved on the Tempur® Mattress.

The Tempur® Mattress is made from a unique pressure relieving material that moulds to the exact shape of your body distributing pressure evenly, relieving back pain and aching joints.

Recommended by over 20,000 Medical Professionals

Over 20,000 Medical Professionals worldwide recognise the benefits of the Tempur® Mattress and Neck Pillow and are recommending them to their patients suffering from sleep difficulties, back, joint or neck pain or people simply needing a better night's sleep!

Order your Tempur® Mattress on our NO RISK trial!

The Tempur® Mattress can be tried in your own home for 60 nights. If, after 60 nights you do not feel the benefit of the Tempur® Mattress we will refund your money in full!

Big savings on home insurance!

Your home has up to 4 bedrooms ☒

With contents worth up to £35,000 ☒

Your home is occupied solely by you and your family ☒

You've not made a home insurance claim in the last three years ☒

You could be in for some good news! Call Commercial Union free and see if you could make big savings on home insurance.

CALL 0800 38 0800

Lines open 8am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat. Please quote reference below. Your call may be recorded for quality control purposes.

COMMERCIAL UNION
Motor and Home Insurance. Ref. T802

PMT? OSTEOPOROSIS? MENOPAUSE?
SERENITY FOR WOMEN
NATURAL PROGESTERONE CREAM

For a free 16 page information booklet send an A5 SAE to:
Dept T2, PO BOX 322, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 3TP.
Web site: <http://www.progesterone.co.uk>

KERALA
South west India's premier beach resorts -
Kovalam and sleepy Varkala

14 nights **SEAFACE HOTEL (BB)**, Havel Beach
01 Feb - 22 Mar 98 £629
29 Mar - 12 Apr 98 £679

14 nights **TAJ GARDEN RETREAT (HB)**, Varkala
01 Feb - 22 Mar 98 £949

Sonak
HOLIDAYS 0181 423 3000

seek 0

£92
1 month with get
£4,000
NOW

APR 14.1%

0800 121

to seek out the best genes



It should not be surprising that a woman from time to time encounters a situation in which infidelity might enhance her reproductive success

hold" phase of her cycle. A woman supported by a partner is much more likely to be driven by her body chemistry to try to attract the attention of other men during her "on hold" phase. Moreover, given the chance, she is more likely to collect sperm from those men, and to conceive.

Why might the woman we met earlier have been so much more keen to ovulate and conceive once she had collected sperm from another man? Ten years or so earlier, she and her partner had chosen to live together and share their lives, and since then they had been through so much together in the name of conception. Why renege on him now?

Sadly, for those who would wish things were different, natural selection has predisposed people's bodies to be selfish and single-minded; it has no mechanism for evolving true altruism. We are the descendants of people whose bodies put their own reproduction first, and we have inherited our ancestors' selfishness. Natural selection has favoured those bodies which,

In seeking the father of your children, one option is to choose the best available long-term partner and then rely on infidelity to obtain the best genes

even while co-operating with a long-term partner, are continuously alert for the opportunity to enhance their reproductive success just that bit more than they can with that partner. If such an opportunity arises, the body does its best to take advantage, whatever the consequences for the partner.

It should not be surprising that a woman, occasionally encounters a situation in which infidelity might enhance her reproductive success. On the one hand she has a need for a man who can help her to raise children. On the other, she needs genes that, combined with her own, will produce attractive, fertile and successful children. Some of her difficulties arise from having a wider choice of gene

providers than of long-term partners. It takes only minutes to collect a man's genes, but years of co-operation from him to raise children.

Women seek different attributes in short-term and long-term partners. And the greater choice of short-term gene-providers opens up two main options. One is to find a man who, though neither the best provider of genes nor the best partner, is the best available compromise she can attract. The other is to choose the best available long-term partner and then rely on infidelity to obtain the best genes.

About 10 per cent of children are not the offspring of their

supposed fathers. Some men have a higher chance of being cuckolded than others, and those of low wealth and status fare worst. Figures range from 1 per cent in high-status areas of Switzerland and the US through 5 to 6 per cent for moderate-status males in Britain and the US, to 10 to 30 per cent for lower-status males in Britain, France and the US. And the men most likely to be cuckolded are those of higher status. Anthropological studies show the same pattern. In many societies men of higher wealth and status obtain partners earlier, are less likely to be cuckolded and are more likely to cuckold other males.

There is, not surprisingly, a similar pattern for female infidelity. Women paired to wealthier, higher-status men have little to gain from infidelity and, much to lose. Those paired with poor, lower-status men, on the other hand, have little to lose and perhaps much to gain, especially if they are unfaithful with men from higher up the social scale. The events that befell our man and woman clear up another conundrum from the early stages of the couple's conception campaign: the enigma of sexual cryptis. Once sex has become a duty rather than a pleasure, many couples have cursed their inability to know when the woman is most fertile. To many, sexual cryptis seems at first one of nature's most mischievous tricks. But in design-

ing the female body to hide its fertile phases, it has handed women one of their most powerful weapons in the control of their reproductive destinies. This way they have greater freedom to choose the genetic fathers of their children than if they advertised their fertility.

But why has it hidden the information even from her conscious mind? The answer is that for a woman to be able to conceal her fertility from men most convincingly, she needs to conceal it from herself. Then she is less likely to give off signals inadvertently.

This is an edited extract from Baby Wars, by Robin Baker and Elizabeth Oram, to be published on February 5 (£12.99, Fourth Estate). Times readers can obtain Baby Wars for £11.99 from The Times Bookshop on 0900 134 458.

He looks for symmetry, she wants security

MEN SELECT women for their health, fertility and fidelity — though not consciously, of course. And although when they see a woman for the first time they do not immediately remark on her potential for bearing and raising children, the features that their bodies are programmed to find attractive are those that reflect this potential.

Unlike a woman, a man uses similar criteria whether he is selecting a partner or a lover: with both, his primary concern is with looks and behaviour. An important feature is body shape, particularly the ratio of waist to hip. Irrespective of a woman's size — in some cultures men prefer thin women, in others fat — they prefer someone whose waist is significantly narrower than her buttocks. The explanation is that this preferred shape reflects a good hormone balance, good resistance to disease and strong fertility.

In addition to shape, men all over the world also respond strongly to clear eyes, healthy hair and skin, and the symmetry of the face and body again, features that are strong indicators of health and hence fertility.

Men of most cultures also respond to breast size and shape, though preferences vary and there is no simple link between the appearance of a woman's breasts and her ability to lactate and sustain a child. Finally, men respond strongly to character traits that might indicate potential fidelity — these, however, are relatively easy to fake, at least for short periods.

In choosing a man, to help to raise her children, a woman is primarily concerned with the security he

can offer and is only secondarily impressed by looks. In choosing a short-term partner for sex, however, looks are much more important — clear eyes, healthy skin and hair, firm buttocks, broad shoulders, quick wit and intelligence.

One of the most interesting features of the new research on mate choice and attractiveness in human beings and other animals is the importance of disease, and resistance to it, during early life. Not only do diseases influence the "glow" of the eyes, hair and skin, they also influence their symmetry.

Throughout life, the body is exposed to attack by a myriad of micro-organisms, and these rarely attack both sides of the body equally, their presence tends to promote asymmetry. The fewer diseases people encounter and the more genetic resistance they have to the diseases they do encounter, the more symmetrical they remain. The more successful they have been in avoiding and resisting accidents and diseases, the greater will be their genetic "fitness", compared with their less symmetrical contemporaries.

The underlying principle of attractiveness is therefore quite straightforward. People are genetically programmed to find attractive those features indicating that the target of their attention is healthy and fertile and possesses "good genes". These "good genes" will be passed on to any children two parties may have together.

Studies of other animals, ranging from birds to insects, show that they, too, are responding to similarly informative features, and that symmetry is one of the most potent for all.



Many men deem curves a must

PC Price Crash!

Top Specification At Our Lowest Ever Prices

6.4Gb Hard Disk
This massive 6.4Gb hard disk gives you all the storage you are ever likely to need. Look at just how much space is the most common reason for PC upgrades and the 6.4Gb upgrade gives you PC more space.

64Mb RAM
Massive 64Mb RAM enhances the performance further and allows smooth multi-tasking. The 64Mb 233M-2 system outperforms our 32Mb 233M-2 Pentium II processor based system.

56K Voice Modem
Latest 56Kbps modem for fast Internet access and the benefits of a 20.8Kbps modem plus the ability to download at speeds approaching 56Kbps using our proprietary protocol.

233-2 PowerPro
Intel Pentium II processor with MMX Technology.
64Mb high performance RAM.
6.4Gb 5400rpm Ultra ATA hard disk.
56Kbps modem.
32MB cache.
32MB cache.
32MB cache.

233M-2 PowerPro
Intel Pentium II processor with MMX Technology.
64Mb high performance RAM.
6.4Gb 5400rpm Ultra ATA hard disk.
56Kbps modem.
32MB cache.
32MB cache.

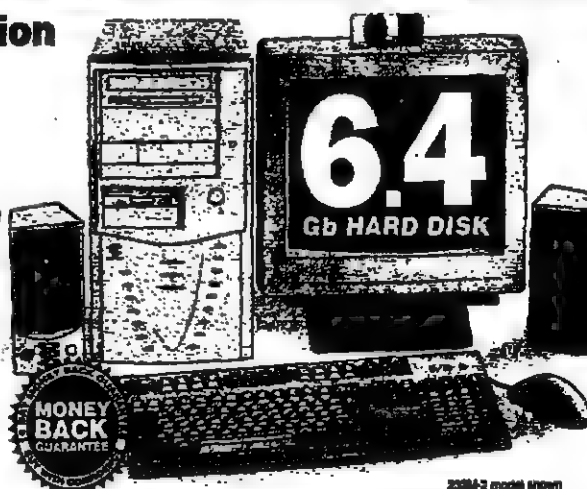
42 UK Showrooms
Our 42 UK showrooms are open 7 days a week, 10am to 6pm. We have a dedicated team of sales and service staff to help you choose the right system for your needs.

EXEC+ Models
These models include 5 top games (PVP, PVP, PVP, PVP, PVP) and 13 superb CD-ROM educational titles and are only £1099 + VAT.

Buy Now Pay July '98
Only with EXEC+ Models. Finance your PC purchase with 0% interest for 12 months. No credit check. No hidden charges. No late fees. No interest. No credit check. No hidden charges. No late fees. No interest.

FreePhone Time Now!
0800 771107
Offers Ends 25th January

COMPUTER SYSTEMS



Videophone Camera
Videophone camera and color video camera on 233M-2 model. Full motion video conferencing and videophone calls over standard telephone lines.

PC-TV with Teletext
Full-motion PC-TV system on 233M-2 model converts your PC into an advanced TV with full-motion Teletext and video capture.

24x CD Multimedia
High performance 24x Max CD drive together with 30MB cache and 6.4Gb hard disk gives you the best quality multimedia.

New Processors
The 233-2 system offers the new Intel Pentium II processor with MMX Technology to deliver superb performance. The 233M-2 system is even more powerful due to faster bus speeds and the advanced 64MB cache.

233M-2 PowerPro
Intel Pentium II processor with MMX Technology.
64Mb high performance RAM.
6.4Gb 5400rpm Ultra ATA hard disk.
56Kbps modem.
32MB cache.
32MB cache.

233-2 PowerPro
Intel Pentium II processor with MMX Technology.
64Mb high performance RAM.
6.4Gb 5400rpm Ultra ATA hard disk.
56Kbps modem.
32MB cache.
32MB cache.

42 UK Showrooms
Our 42 UK showrooms are open 7 days a week, 10am to 6pm. We have a dedicated team of sales and service staff to help you choose the right system for your needs.

EXEC+ Models
These models include 5 top games (PVP, PVP, PVP, PVP, PVP) and 13 superb CD-ROM educational titles and are only £1099 + VAT.

Buy Now Pay July '98
Only with EXEC+ Models. Finance your PC purchase with 0% interest for 12 months. No credit check. No hidden charges. No late fees. No interest. No credit check. No hidden charges. No late fees. No interest.

FreePhone Time Now!
0800 771107
Offers Ends 25th January

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

£92 a month will get you £4,000 NOW

APR 14.1%

0800 121125

IF YOU ARE OVER 22 AND HAVE AN INCOME OF £10,000 OR MORE CALL FREE ON 0800 121125

Lines open 9am-5pm weekdays, 9am-5pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun. Please quote code 080 when calling.

Or complete the information below and send to: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, FREEPOST, 201 Princess Street, Manchester M1 9GE (no stamp required).

Surname (print/initials) _____ First Name (initials) _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Tel. Day _____ Tel. Evening _____

Code 080

TOMORROW

Infertility: Is it a mistake to delay having a baby? Why does one couple in six have difficulty conceiving? Part two of Baby Wars provides the answers

Big savings on home insurance

0800 380900

You can, it seems, take the millennium out of Christianity, but you cannot. I believe, take Christianity out of the millennium. Let's leave the dome out of it and look at the general picture.

We are told that 2000 is just a number. It is a handy number, being round and as full of zeros as a calendar can get. It also marks some sort of achievement — let us not be too specific about it — and therefore provides excuse enough to trigger off a celebration. I love celebrations and the fundamental trick is that they ought to be about something — birthday, Christmas, welcoming party, an event.

In that sense, 2000 being the marker for a new millennium gives us a clean excuse to roll out the barrel. What scale it should be on is a matter of taste or purse, but the dawn of the third millennium is worth a toast. In this view, 2000 is simply about Time. And if a small village inquires "The millennium is what?" or "Whose millennium is it anyway?", there are ways

For Christians, 2000 is not just a number

to bundle such questions off the platform.

It could be argued that although this millennium comes courtesy of Christianity there is no reason to let that interfere with the celebration. After all, Christianity took over many a pagan festival — Christmas itself, Easter, some saints' days — as well as other features characteristic of pagan religions. Moreover, if the pagans could be incorporated, the heathens could be, and on the whole were, totally ignored in these matters. So what can one say in Christianity's defence if the vast number of heathens today choose to ignore the lesser band of Christians?

There is also the proposition that in these islands, described by that evangelical Pope Gregory 1,500 years ago as being "at the edge of the known world", we have not

been Christian for the full 2,000. Perhaps only Christians in Israel could claim that. Joseph of Arimathea may have reached Ireland, certain Christian traces may be found inside Roman settlements, and who knows whether the True Cross beat in the heart of one of Caesar's centurions? But, by and large, being at the outer rim of the then pond of the world the ripples reached us later. So liberalists can say that 2000 does not correctly describe the British experience.

Then we come to the multi-religious argument, which says that Britain today is not exclusively Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and Buddhist. To pick out one strand from the many which make up the religious part of this country would, it is argued, be unfair. Everyone must be included. And yet ... the year 2000 is

MELVYN BRAGG



indisputably there because it marks the widely acknowledged birth of Jesus Christ, believed by Christians to be the son of God. Compared with that, Greenwich Mean Time, for all its significance,

is a convenience only, one that at the last moment we wrenched away from the French, and of the utmost importance over many years for many reasons. But even those who most claim that importance — and might even claim further that it has been more use to the world than Christianity itself — surely cannot argue that it would have no significance whatsoever on New Year's Eve 1999 had Christ not been born 2,000 years before that?

For many other religions 2000 is meaningless, but not for Christians. For the past 1,500 years this country has striven to be Christian, with some decades and centuries more successful than others. Christianity has informed our civilisation and culture in every aspect. It has been abused by the wicked, manipulated by the

cynical and ignored by unbelievers. I cannot, though, subscribe to the emphatic view of the novelist A.S. Byatt who says that she is anti-Christian "because Christianity has done such terrible things". I find it difficult to draw up any meaningful balance which would compare the benefits with the disadvantages, but benefits have undoubtedly flowed. We might have been better off without Christianity, but, looking at other societies, it is certain we could have done much worse without it.

And still, although reduced in these islands, Christianity continues to live and flourish. And this, surely, is one of the moments at which it can claim pole position, or even ownership. I fear that the reason for the reluctance to give Christianity its due in 2000 might have less to do with religion and more to do with

what I have written about several times in this column — the state of our confidence in ourselves and our history. We are very reluctant to pick up those pieces from our past which still have the most extraordinary richness and with them refashion a positive present.

We have been in some manner or other a Christian country for as long as most. Yes, it has often seemed the devil's work, but at its best Christianity in Britain has brought us saints, martyrs, scholars and pilgrims, Christian soldiers, teachers, preachers and millions of those who would call themselves ordinary. It has brought us music, paintings, words of poetry and wisdom, buildings of profound charm and great magnificence, and communities civilised by its touch.

Surely we should not be too feeble or ashamed to stand up for one of the great days on which we can respect the best of that tradition, and let Christianity have its celebration unclouded?

Lather but few laughs

What's in a name? There is less spoken dialogue in Sondheim's "musical" than there is in Mozart's "grand opera". The Magic Flute. Even the most accomplished opera of Night might find the rhythms of Mrs Lovett's "Worst pies in London" tricky to negotiate, and Sweeney's revenge aria is as hair-raising — and pivotal — as those that permeate the operas of Verdi. There's not much point in arguing whether Sweeney belongs on Broadway or in an opera house: it's as authentic a piece of 20th-century music-theatre as Britten's *Gawain*, serious in intent, intricately and carefully composed, and worth the attention of any opera company and its audience.

Opera North's new production is the first operatic staging

OPERA
Sweeney Todd
Grand Theatre

in this country, in the wake of Drury Lane, the National Theatre and — best of all to date — the Half Moon. And it is defiantly "operatic" in feel, big orchestra (occasionally covering the voices), big chorus (tending to sing notes rather than words), conducted with devotion by the experienced James Holmes, who risks some neo-operatic tempos in a long (90-minute) first act inviting a few more nips and tucks. The first hour is unrelentingly sombre.

So is David McVicar's production. In traditional industrial decor by Michael Vale. But Sweeney was written for

Broadway, and there was almost as much macabre humour in the Hal Prince production as there was in the classic Tod Slaughter version of the original play back in the 1950s, final flowering of the old melodrama tradition. Here the big comic waltz finale, *Past, Present and Future*, comes as more of an abrupt change of mood than it ought to. One guilefully longed for an Anthony more like a musical-comedy sailor than the subdued Karl Daymond, a daffier Johanna than Lucy Schaefer's rather too knowing ingénue, and more showbiz pizzazz in their duets.

Maybe financial stringency dictated sets that have to be changed by chorus-members rather than whizz around on trucks, but there was no discernible reason for "observers" lurking on the fringe even of scenes where solitude is crucial — both conceals gave McVicar's production a fuzzy, uncertain edge. The surface action is grim, but must it be so consistently joyless? The audience laughed merrily at the serial throat-slitting in the second act, but I am not sure they were meant to.

Much more guilefully one longed for actors rather than singers, or for singers directed in such a way as to sustain so sombre a reading. If Sweeney is, in good operatic tradition, about the dehumanising properties of both revenge and romantic love, then we need a protagonist to convey the workings of his mind more clearly than Steven Page did, and a Mrs Lovett who doesn't declare her hand as openly as Beverley Klein did in her very first scene with the man she loves. Neither character goes on a journey. But Page, a noted Don Giovanni, sings the role as powerfully as you could hope to hear, and Klein exploits her healthy showbiz chest voice to fine effect. Malcolm Rivers sings the Judge's aria so well as to prevent me (almost) thinking it should be cut, and Christopher Saunders is vocally touching — but too Artful Dodgerish as the artless Tobias. Gillian Kirkpatrick (Beggan Woman), Adrian Thompson (Pirelli) and Stephen Briggs (Beadle) are first-rate. Yes, Sweeney is a serious work but, as in *Threepenny Opera*, its impact would be far greater with a few more laughs.

RODNEY MILNES



Something for the weekend? Sweeney Todd (Steven Page, centre) at the shaving contest

Rattle's successor shows his quality

One of the most encouraging aspects of Sakari Oramo's conducting is the way that it has changed over the last couple of years. Of course, it must do wonders for a young musician's self-confidence to be appointed to succeed someone like Sir Simon Rattle with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. That must account for some of what has happened to him.

But if he goes on like this the CBSO will soon have another star on its hands. Oramo has already developed from the studiously competent conductor he was on his first appearance in Symphony Hall to the clearly authoritative director of this particular event.

It would be exaggerating to suggest that he has been transformed into a virtuoso. He retains his straightforward, classical technique and remains as serious and as helpful as he was before. There is, on the other hand, a new freedom in his movements, a newly evident joy in the sound he is creating, a loss of inhibition in reflecting whatever is dramatic or inspiring in the music he is conducting.

The most striking item in that respect was Oramo's highly coloured interpretation of Sibelius's Second Symphony, which retained its integrity because the pressure was applied at just those points where the structural profile requires it. There was no brooding in what is usually assumed to be the authentic Finnish manner. But if the interpretation was lacking something in atmosphere, it certainly lacked nothing in either long-term

CONCERT

effect or the orchestra's bar-by-bar commitment.

Demonstrating his abilities in two other major areas of the repertoire, Oramo opened the concert with a work by his Finnish contemporary Magnus Lindberg and offered Mozart's Symphony No 39 as its centrepiece. Anyone who feared that the Mozart might be squeezed out by the bigger pieces on either side must have been relieved to observe the resilience of the sound Oramo secured here. The speeds were quick, the lines sensitively but firmly drawn, the scaled-down orchestral forces still sufficient to register the magnitude of the harmonic events which are so distinctive to this particular score.

But for sheer technique, in conducting and orchestral playing, nothing was more impressive than the performance of Lindberg's *Arena*. Written for a conductor's competition in 1995 (and first performed in this country by Vasily Sinaisky and the BBC Philharmonic at a Cheltenham Festival concert a year later), it has the great virtue that it is just as brilliant as it is complicated. It is also highly rewarding in that the shifting mass of motivic detail and flickering instrumental colours do eventually stabilise into sustained and convincingly conclusive melody. Sibelius did it no better.

GERALD LARNER

Genius who looked back in anguish

EACH January the BBC Symphony Orchestra hosts a Baroque weekend focused on a 20th-century composer. It is always a fascinating historical as well as musical exploration.

Composers have not been exempt from the horrors and upheavals of our ebbing century, and in many instances their music was shaped by harrowing circumstances.

Bohuslav Martinů, this year's subject, is a case in point. The BBC calls him "the great Czech composer", which is not quite the truth. He was certainly born in Bohemia, at the top of a church tower, oddly enough. But his adulthood was spent in exile — first by choice, in the chic Paris of

the 1920s and 1930s; then by necessity in America, as Nazis and Communists successively usurped his homeland.

Those wanderings probably account for his sophisticated but restlessly stultifying style. But in later years a yearning for his homeland, expressed through sudden eruptions of Czech rhythms and cadences, shaped Martinů's muse. And when that homesickness became tangled up in a doomed adulterous affair with an expatriate Czech student it was the breaking of Martinů the man, but the making of Martinů the composer.

It turned a prolific but underwhelming craftsman into a tragic genius.

FESTIVAL

So Martinů was not a "great composer" in the groundbreaking fashion of Stravinsky. But he did write some great music: scores that mirror the anguish of the century.

Two were superbly performed here by the BBC SO conducted by Jiri Bělohlávek. On Friday night the *Fantaisies symphoniques* proved to be an astonishing piece, its three movements full of dark, surging

melodies that fight their way out of thickets of throbbing energy. The distance Martinů had travelled by 1953, intellectually and emotionally, could be measured by comparing this masterpiece with the energetic but ultimately unsatisfying First Cello Concerto (1930), passionately delivered here by Raphael Wallfisch.

But even the *Fantaisies symphoniques* pales besides Martinů's last and greatest work, *The Greek Passion* — the opera he made from Nikos Kazantzakis's novel *Christ Recrucified*, about a passion play that gradually turns into violent reality as Greek villagers face an influx of homeless refugees. The score is

both startlingly dramatic and intensely beautiful.

It has its Greek moments, particularly in the liturgical choruses (sonorously declaimed in Saturday's concert performance by the BBC Symphony Chorus), but mostly it is pure Czech in its directness, lyrical ardour and blazing climaxes. With a fine cast led by David Rendall as the Christ-figure Manolios, Susan Chilcott as the "Magdalene" Katerina and Olive Bayley as the malevolent "high priest" Grigorios, Bělohlávek steered the tragedy to a stunning conclusion.

RICHARD MORRISON

SPECIAL OFFERS

Chappell
of Bond Street

NEW YEAR SALE

YAMAHA ACOUSTIC GUITARS
FROM £85

ELECTRIC GUITARS
FROM £99

PIANOS, SHEET MUSIC, KEYBOARDS, DRUMS & WOODWIND

FREEPHONE LONDON 0500 004976

Chappell of Bond Street, 50 New Bond Street, London W1, offers all Milton Keynes Shopping Centres.

FREEPHONE MILTON KEYNES 0500 003999

All offers subject to availability - correct at time of going to press.

KILL FOR A TICKET

NEW BOOKING PERIOD ON SALE NOW

THROUGH TO 31 OCTOBER

THE MUSICAL

RUTHIE HENSHALL UTE KEMPER HENRY GOODMAN NICOL PISHNER CREDIT CARDS (24 HRS. £1.50G FEE) 0177 344 0055 NEW BROADWAY EAST RECORDING ON BOX VHS/DVD SUNDAY TRIPLES 19.95 LONDON WC2



Thin end of the Euro wedge

The Amsterdam treaty hides a real danger, says Oliver Letwin

What does the Amsterdam treaty do? This is a question which, at a rough guess, 60 million people in this country are not asking themselves this morning, as it concludes its passage through Parliament.

No problem, say the Euro-cognoscenti: in their view, the apathy of the British public in the face of the Amsterdam treaty is absolutely justified. The treaty, they assure us, is a minor affair, a technical adjustment — with no very far-reaching consequences. That is also, no doubt, a view shared by Her Majesty's Government, which saw fit to guillotine the committee stage of the Bill implementing the treaty in UK law after only some 12 hours' debate in Parliament.

But our long experience of the route-march from Common Market to "ever closer union" should have taught us to beware when the cognoscenti and Tony Blair's Euro-gurus tell us there is nothing to worry about. A document even less known to the British public than the Amsterdam treaty (if such a thing is possible) is the European Commission's Agenda 2000. Tucked away in that "discussion document" (and unnoticed by ministers until recently pointed out to them) is an astonishing proposal from the Commission. It wants to make the accession of new member states conditional upon their joining the European exchange-rate mechanism.

That will, if accepted, be a knockout blow to the prospects for Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovenia joining the European Union within the next couple of decades. By hiding the proposal deep in Agenda 2000, the Commission can claim (now) that it has no status beyond an "idea" (and later, upon exclamations of horror, that — having been accepted as part of a "seminal text" — it has the status of fundamental principle).

"Isn't happening and/or doesn't matter": "Has happened, does matter": "You ought to have known" — the hat-trick of Euro-evolution. Exactly the same sequence applies in the case of the Amsterdam treaty. We are being told now that the treaty is innocuous: we will realise a little while from now that it is important; and we shall then be told that we cannot object to its implications because we ought to have known about them all along.

The most interesting proof of this particular pudding — both because it is exceedingly important in its own right and because it illustrates the general theme — is the enlargement of the powers of the European Court of Justice which the Amsterdam treaty permits. This is achieved with exquisite subtlety.

Hidden away in Article K.7 (1), unread by all but the most assiduous, is a new authority for the European Court of Justice to give "preliminary rulings" on the validity and interpretation of decisions... and on the valid-

ity and interpretation of measures implementing [decisions] in the field of justice and home affairs.

What does this mean? It is hard to be absolutely sure because the drafting is, to say the least, somewhat obscure. But there is a strong possibility — one might almost say a presumption, given the history of the European Court — that the clause will be given a wide interpretation. And on a wide interpretation, the clause means that the European Court will be able to decide whether certain criminal laws enacted by national parliaments in EU countries to implement EU "decisions" and "framework decisions" in the field of criminal justice are or are not valid, and how these same national criminal laws are to be interpreted.

This, if applied and developed, will gradually create a general precedent for bringing the European Court into the field of criminal law and thereby gradually change the relationship between this most important institution of European central government and the citizen. By anyone's standards, that alone is enough to make Amsterdam an important treaty.

'Mr Blair maintains the treaty will have no effect in the United Kingdom'

Mr Blair maintains that this will have no effect in the United Kingdom. On June 18, he told the House of Commons that "in the justice and home affairs area... the European Court will have no authority to decide on cases brought in United Kingdom courts". And this will initially be true, it seems, because under the treaty, member states retain the right "to trigger or not to trigger" the entry of the European Court of Justice into their criminal law by making or not making an appropriate declaration of acceptance.

But how will matters evolve? Again — in all likelihood — we shall see the hat-trick pattern. Once the Amsterdam treaty is in force, other member states will begin to make their declarations of acceptance. Then it will be Britain's turn.

The declaration will be made also by our Government. We shall be told that this is "a minor technical adjustment to bring us into line with other member states". And hey presto, the European Court of Justice will begin to interpret itself as having the power to intervene in UK criminal law. And we shall all wake up and say: "How did this happen?" And the Euro-cognoscenti will say: "But didn't you know? It was in Amsterdam, and you signed up to that long ago. What are you complaining about?"

Maitland, the greatest British legal historian, told us that the difference between tyranny and freedom lies at the intersection of the law. Had he been alive today, he would have added that the difference between centralised government in Europe and national self-determination lies in the minutiae of unread treaties.

The author is Conservative MP for West Dorset.

Children's hospices aim to ease the family trauma that terminal illness inescapably generates

Helping all to take the bitterest pill

Little Haven will have an annual intake of about 150 cases, and many of these will become regular visitors as their disease progresses. At present there is no children's hospice in Greater London; until the Rayleigh hospice is opened, the nearest to London are in North Cambridgeshire, Oxfordshire and Norfolk. The ideal would be to have a children's hospice for each population group of the size of Essex.

The whole hospice movement has been founded on charitable work, rather than on the State or private enterprise. Little Haven is unique in that it has emerged from the concern of an adult hospice. The original appeal was launched in 1993 on the initiative of Fair Havens, which is the southeast Essex Christian hospice. Both hospices are, of course, completely unconnected and care for people of all faiths and none, but their inspiration has been Christian — indeed, has come specifically from the Church of England. There are two Anglican bishops and one Roman Catholic among the project's patrons, as well as Graham Gooch and Helen Mirren.

The appeal has raised more than £3 million, mostly from inside Essex, and the hospice will cost £300,000 a year to run, most of which will have to be raised from the community. The project has not sought lottery funding. Another 10 or 15 children's hospices would meet the perceived national need; that would cost £30

million to £50 million. My first thought was how that contrasts with the cost of the Greenwich dome. Yet I think many of the Essex people who have contributed to Little Haven would say that the involvement of the community in fundraising has been even more important than the money itself. Now that the £3 million has been raised, it can be seen that the spirit created is more valuable than state funding would have been. In due course, the National Health Service will presumably provide a

their families, in need of this support.

Little Haven will be a state-of-the-art example of what can be done by modern treatment, specialist nursing and palliative care. Many of the children will be unable to carry out even simple tasks for themselves; many will be in wheelchairs. A children's hospice has to be a modern, technological building. There will be a hydrotherapy pool and a multi-sensory room where even seriously handicapped children can be given stimulation by sight and sound. For older children there will be a computer room where they can explore the Internet.

These hospices have to care for children up to the end of adolescence. Little Haven has built two rather larger bedrooms designed for older teenagers, some of whom will be suffering from disabling disorders such as muscular dystrophy. These rooms open on to each other, so they could be occupied by two friends. Often these teenagers will have lost much of their mobility; the rooms are big enough for wheelchair users and have private bathrooms and toilets.

One of the most important roles of a children's hospice is to help families to cope with their feelings about the child's death long before it happens, shortly before, and after the event. The head of care, Rosie Midson, told me that even very young children, in her experience, often have a surprising degree of maturity and understanding about death. At three or four

years old, they will sometimes ask frank questions which their parents are not yet ready to face. With teenagers the problem can be a different one — not death itself so much as the lack of communication between parent and child. The generation gap can be a difficulty in facing death.

The teenager knows that life will be short but does not want to distress the parent; the parent knows how ill the teenager is but does not want to upset the child. Both are embarrassed to discuss a knowledge which both possess. The carers in the hospice can help to bridge this gap. Openness in the last month can often help families after the death has occurred.

There is often a misplaced sense of guilt associated with death, which can cripple a whole family. Parents think they might have done something more to save their child's life, brothers and sisters can feel a quite unreasonable guilt that they are the survivors. The serious illness of a child imposes its own schedule on the parents, and can make the healthy children feel neglected. The healthy child is performing in the school play; the sick child is going through a crisis in their illness; the parents cannot go to the school play. Later the healthy child may feel guilt about having resented their parents' absence.

The aim of the hospice is to help families to deal with these situations. At the centre of the new building is the bereavement room; families can stay as long as they want to say goodbye to the children they have lost. Little Haven is part of a national movement; it is not alone. But it is extremely heartening. The death of a child is an agony that all parents fear. Little Haven shows how a practical local charity, supported by the community, can support both the children and their families.

William Rees-Mogg

minority part of the revenue funding. The children's hospice movement is a nationwide undertaking. In the United Kingdom about 1,600 children a year die of irreversible diseases; many of these diseases are genetic, apart from the minority of children's cancers which still cannot be cured. Because of the intensive treatment that cancer patients receive in hospital, relatively few of these cases come to hospices. Yet since patients with wasting diseases often deteriorate very gradually over a long period of time, there must at any one moment be more than 10,000 children, and

To share or not to share?

Blair is torn between keeping and devolving power, says Peter Riddell

If Tony Blair is still Prime Minister in the middle of the next Parliament, the long-familiar landscape of British politics is likely to look very different as a result of decisions being taken now. By 2005, Britain could be a long way down the road to a federal structure, a written constitution and a largely elected second chamber. There could also be a coalition government. I write "could" rather than "will" because of unresolved tensions within the Government — and within Mr Blair himself — about how far to go in sharing and decentralising power.

An intriguing aspect of current politics is the extent to which Mr Blair is defying the conventions of the familiar party battle. He treats the largest Commons majority for 60 years as a base for appealing outside the party. First we had the involvement of businessmen in advising Government; then the creation of the consultative Cabinet committee with the Liberal Democrats; and now there is the proposal for a cross-party committee, including senior Tories, to promote Britain's role in Europe. These are all, of course, intended to create a national rather than a narrowly partisan image, but they are also steps towards a more pluralist style of government.

Moreover, the Commons is spending most of the next few weeks debating Bills which will begin to reverse the century-long centralisation of power in Westminster and Whitehall. These will create a First Minister in Edinburgh and an elected mayor in London (and probably in other big cities too, eventually) who will be both more powerful and better known than local council leaders now. Meanwhile, the new



commission under Roy Jenkins started work on Friday considering changes to the electoral system that could transform the dividing lines between the parties.

At the same time, however, Mr Blair has developed a presidential style in Downing Street, applying a strong central direction to decision-making. Talk of sharing power is also qualified by ministers' handling of the Commons and by many of the specific constitutional proposals. The occupants of Whitehall are wary of trusting others with real power.

That is partly because of the reluctance of the Treasury to surrender financial control. The new Scottish parliament is being given the power to increase or reduce the basic rate of income tax by not more than 3 per cent from that determined by the

Westminster Parliament. This is equivalent to less than £500 million, compared with more than £14 billion in Treasury grants. Not only does this raise problems of audit and accountability, as David Davis, the feisty chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, has pointed out, but it also severely limits the real freedom of manoeuvre of the Scottish parliament. The Treasury is also resisting proposals to give an elected London mayor and authority any revenue-raising powers of their own. But the ability to raise taxes is central to political independence.

Ministers are also reluctant to admit that sovereignty can be shared, since they have reaffirmed the absolute supremacy of Parliament.

Clause 27 of the Scotland Bill states "the power of the United Kingdom to make laws for Scotland". Similarly, under the Bill now in the Lords incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights, senior judges will be able to issue a declaration saying that a law passed by Parliament is incompatible with the convention, but they will not be able to strike down the law.

As I discuss in my new book *Parliament under Pressure* (just published by Victor Gollancz), there are questions about whether "a real will exists at the top of the Blair Government to allow the Commons to become a thorn in its side by questioning and scrutinising. Or are the instincts of ministers, as I suspect, as executive-minded as those of their predecessors?"

A classic example arises over the Bill transferring responsibility for setting interest rates to the Bank of England. The Commons has a poor record in ensuring adequate accountability for such arm's-length public bodies. The Treasury Select Committee proposed last autumn that it should have the right to report on appointments to the key Monetary Policy Committee. This is far more limited than the "advise and consent" powers of the American Senate. The possibility of confirmation hearings has been floated in the past by Mrs Taylor, but was then brushed aside by Alastair Darling, the Chief Secretary, because it needed wider consideration. This proposal has been revived by a cross-party group from the Treasury Committee for the report stage of the Bill on Thursday and will provide a test case of the Government's commitment to strengthening the Commons.

Some believe that no government voluntarily agrees to surrender power. The optimists argue that the mere existence of new bodies, such as a London mayor, however limited their immediate role, will create prominent alternative centres of power to Westminster and Whitehall. Mr Blair is still unsure how far to go down this road, and has not made up his mind about electoral reform and coalition politics, in part because he and his advisers are uncertain how seriously to take the Liberal Democrats. The Prime Minister has been bold so far in challenging tribal politics. He clearly wants to create a new Centre-Left force in Britain. But it is still unclear whether this would lead to a new pluralist and co-operative approach, or whether it is primarily about entrenching the dominance of new Labour.

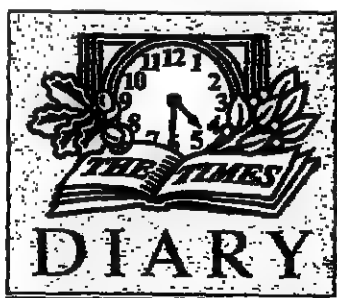
Head boyo

ONE of Westminster's most robust campaigners is to depart for the green hills of Wales: Ron Davies, Welsh Secretary, is to follow the example of Donald Dewar by becoming king of his own province. Aware that Tony Blair sees a rather limited Cabinet career for the leftwinger, Davies will make a pre-resignation announcement that he will seek to be crowned First Secretary of the National Assembly and resign his Westminster seat. "It is a very influential post which would have a higher profile than Welsh Secretary in the Cabinet," says a source close to Davies. "Ron is discussing standing with his local party. He will announce his decision very soon." Davies has inflated the post of "assembly leader" and friends deny the move is a demotion forced by Blair after the narrow devolution vote. Ron is big in Wales but other Cabinet jobs are shrinking. "After devolution you will have jobs like industry minister for England. You could hardly ask a man with Ron's strong Welsh dimension to do that."

Unlike the saintly Dewar, Davies has enemies who see him as a thuggish boyo. One anti-devolution Labour MP refused to endorse him: "I don't even want to talk about him. I knew this was the job he wanted in his guts all along." Davies must hope Blair's endorsement will be a shade more effusive.

Lost scent

ROBIN HANBURY-TENISON is to resign as chief executive of the Countryside Alliance, just when hunting faces its greatest threat. The explorer was popular in the movement but senior figures say a big hitter with political contacts in the Labour Government is needed desperately. "They want a more energetic person and there are a lot of high-level candidates," FT tells me. Chief target, I suspect, is the delightful Baroness Maffei, that rare and valuable breed: a socialist hunter. "Ann is a tremendous supporter," sighs Robin. "But I am not part of the selection process."



DIARY

Bob a job

FOR admirers of Fidel Castro, still choking on their tortillas after the Cuban communist decided to become chummy with the Pope, an



Mallalieu; Hanbury-Tenison

even greater shock: he has also invited the king of market research, Bob Worcester, to Havana. Finding out what the public thinks has never been one of Fidel's obsessions, so it is believed that the MORI chairman will be the first pollster to find work in Cuba since the revolution. Bob, who was hired by the Queen to discover how the royals are perceived, confirms he will be donning a straw hat but declines to be drawn on his exact role.

Still, the old cigar-chomper should not assume that Worcester will be as pliable as the average beard in downtown Havana. When Sir James Goldsmith was dismayed by MORI research showing that his party had virtually no support, he asked Worcester to change the question. He refused and dropped the account.

GORDON BROWN says that he has "only read extracts" of the new biography of himself, but others seem keen to hear its account of the Granita leadership "deal". The publishers say that No 10 sent an emissary to Politico's bookshop as soon as it went on sale.

Jelly horror

THE gentle childhood mind of Michael Portillo was disturbed by

a nightmare that raged for years. Its subject: a four-foot jellyfish washed up on a Scottish beach, stoned to death by local toughs in front of the eight-year-old Portillo. Those nightmares may now have been replaced by visions of Stephen Twigg, but then they blighted his annual holiday in Scotland with his grandfather, who ran a linen factory in Fife. Mr Portillo will be seen revisiting the house in a television programme entitled *Watch out for the Jellyfish*. The house, now an old people's home, looks rather stately. Is Schor, Portillo a bit of a toff?



"I counted them all out and I counted them all back"

IF inspiration for the content of Birthday Letters was a sad memory, Ted Hughes was reminded to use his dazzling technique by the Queen Mother. Now HM, I grant you, is no fan of radical poetical endeavour (when Betjeman read one of his works, she fidgeted and complained that it was overlong). But last July she invited Hughes to Sandringham for her annual literary gathering. So convivial was the weekend that Hughes wrote a very long thank-you letter — perhaps not to the standard of Ovid, but in narrative verse.

Picture this

DESPERATE to attract more silk suits to its tables, the Mirage Casino in Las Vegas has bought some daubings to brighten the walls: Renoirs, Monets, Cézannes, Van Goghs, Picassos, the usual. Appraising them will be the actor Bruce Willis, now a regular at the blackjack table, sipping watermelon juice, chewing on an unlit cigar and betting more than £150,000 an hour. The tycoon Kerry Packer, a £1 million sort of player, may be rather less impressed.

SORE heads among crimpers in Tinseltown: Vidal Sassoon has celebrated his 70th Birthday.



Willis: medium-high roller

"Vidal really knows how to party," says a right black T-shirt. "He invites all the beautiful folk and just goes on and on and on."

A weekend fireworks party was equally lively. Sir Graham Kirkham had Elaine Paige belting out her old ditties at his pad, Cantley Hall, near Doncaster. Partygoers from the Young Presidents Organisation — you must be under 40 and worth more than £1 million — danced expensively. Whether it was Ms Paige warbling or the fireworks, I know not, but police were called after neighbours grumbled about the noise.

JASPER GERARD



SECRETS AND LIES

American betrayal of British trust on Irish affairs

On Saturday, Bill Clinton was obliged to submit to six hours of cross-examination over alleged events in a Little Rock hotel room some seven years ago. When Tony Blair visits Washington next month, it is to be hoped that he insists on an equally forensic analysis of the much less contestable facts concerning Mr Clinton's approach to Northern Ireland four years ago. The memoirs of Raymond Seitz, probably the most widely respected American Ambassador to London in this century, are damning and devastating on the subject. They will inevitably cast a shadow over the present American role in the Ulster peace process.

Mr Seitz describes Jean Kennedy Smith, the US Ambassador in Dublin, as "an ardent IRA apologist". Senator Edward Kennedy's unwarranted influence over the President on Ulster is outlined in new detail. Nancy Soderberg, then a key member of the National Security Council and former employee of Senator Kennedy, is dismissed as a "dedicated advocate" of Gerry Adams. The advice of this trio was consistently accepted above that of career professionals and the US State Department. As a result, the British Government was obliged to censor the material made available to Washington because "it often seems to find its way to the IRA".

Much of what Mr Seitz has now committed to print has been an open secret. The Kennedys have long considered it their right to question the territorial boundaries of the United Kingdom. Mr Clinton's exceptional weakness for the family is well known, as is his tendency to regard foreign policy as little more than an outlet for domestic politics. It is shocking that matters were so bad as to risk the security of British secrets — but not,

sadly, surprising. John Major doubtless knew what was happening but decided that he had to make the best of it.

This is no reason to minimise or doubt the Seitz memoirs. To disregard them would be as unacceptable as were the original actions of the Clinton Administration. History may not repeat itself here, not least because Mr Seitz has done his own country and this one the service of forcing the truth into the open. Moreover, even without this book, the shifting personnel within the White House, the fundamentally different relationship between the President and this Prime Minister and the effect of experience with Sinn Féin, have combined to alter American attitudes on Ulster.

Such improvements cannot, however, allay all concerns for the future. If President Clinton's choice had not been blocked in the Senate, Anthony Lake, National Security Adviser in his first term, would today be the CIA director. He is also the most senior figure cited by Mr Seitz among those whose staff appear to have been so incautious with British secrets. Senator Kennedy remains both in office and in line of duty with the Clinton White House. His sister is still Ambassador in Dublin. Senator George Mitchell has been left in ill-deserved discomfit.

Britain deserves not only an apology from the White House but credible assurances that such episodes will not occur again. There is one move the President can make as belated compensation. He must show that there is more to his stance on Northern Ireland than pandering to the Kennedy clan. To that end, Mrs Kennedy Smith should cease to serve as her country's Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland.

FOR FREE TRADE AND ST GEORGE

Why Blair should go to the aid of the WTO party

However well or ill managed Asia's financial turmoil turns out to be, it will inescapably have a global impact. World growth will be cut this year by at least 20 per cent and when the International Monetary Fund speaks of the risk of a "deep, prolonged and self-reinforcing downturn", it is not thinking only of the plunging currencies, collapsing banks and corporate bankruptcies on the far side of the world.

Europe and America will be caught in a double squeeze. Their trade deficits will balloon as export order books are hit by a dramatic drop in Asian demand, accompanied by an equally dramatic surge in imports from the region. When Western companies cut profit margins in order to survive, they will also lay off workers. Politicians must brace against demands for protection against "unfair" competition.

They must resist these demands. If they do not, Asia's troubles could trigger a global depression. One enduring lesson of the Great Depression of the 1930s is that the damage inflicted by a protectionist response is both far greater, and far more prolonged, than the financial crisis which provoked it. The second lesson of the 1930s is that resistance is most likely to be successful if it is both public and collective, because a shared commitment to free trade helps politicians to hold the line when, as it is now bound to do, the going gets tough at home.

The international defences against protectionism are vastly stronger than they were in the 1930s. That is a largely British achievement. This country led the way 50 years ago in creating a rule-based world trading system, the Gatt. With its successor, the World Trade Organisation (WTO), this has been one of the great postwar success stories, the engine of a massive trade-led expansion in global wealth. It is a sign of how much attitudes have changed, most notably in once protectionist developing countries, that

even as the storm clouds gathered last year, the WTO concluded three landmark agreements in financial services, information technology and telecommunications.

Even so, if the pendulum is not to swing back — above all in the EU, where unemployment is already accentuating protectionism — a British lead is again needed. In an interview with our Economics Editor on page 46 today, Renato Ruggiero, the WTO's Director-General, sets out his plans to turn the 50th anniversary celebrations in Geneva on May 20, an event that would normally be left to trade ministers, into a free trade summit of world leaders. The two most important names on his guest-list are President Clinton and Tony Blair.

Mr Blair's support is critical for three reasons. Because Britain currently occupies the presidency of the European Union, his example might persuade other EU heads of government to attend. In April, when Britain hosts the Asem summit between the EU, Japan, China, South Korea and the ASEAN nations, he has a further opportunity to galvanise support. Above all, Mr Blair's attitude could tip the balance in Washington, where President Clinton is hesitating about running up the free trade flag so publicly, for fear of provoking the vocal protectionist lobby in the US Congress.

An answer to Signor Ruggiero is due this week. The WTO is not only a vital tool for handling Asia's crisis: it is Britain's most powerful potential ally should EMU members try to discriminate against it for not joining in 1999. Mr Blair should say yes to this invitation — and then, as host to the Group of Eight summit of industrialised countries which takes place in Birmingham just before the WTO anniversary, ask his guests to travel on with him to Geneva. Crowded as his diary is for the next few months, this symbolic event could be his most important international engagement.

DISHONOUR BY DEGREES

Oxford seems set to repeat the mistake it made with Thatcher

Thirteen years ago Oxford University considered and then withdrew an honorary doctorate for Margaret Thatcher. The Oxford honorary degrees committee has now, apparently, contemplated but rejected the option of offering one to Tony Blair. The reason advanced is that since 1995, after the Thatcher affair, Oxford's policy has been to bestow none to serving politicians; but if so, the offer should not have contemplated in the first place. If in fact, the decision was influenced by the dispute between Oxford and the Government over the future of college fees, Oxford has again been its own worst enemy. Needless to offend one prime minister might be considered a misfortune, to do so twice must be deemed unintelligent.

Oxford's very public rejection of Mrs Thatcher was a disaster — for the university not for the then Prime Minister. She survived happily in office for another five years: the university's reputation, on the other hand, was severely damaged, and financial support, especially from overseas donors, became harder to find. Oxford invited the judgment that it considered the state of its own coffers as the sole criterion of merit in public officials. It associated itself with the cheapest form of political correctness.

After the general election last year, wiser heads realised that the mistake should not be repeated. They resolved to bestow an honorary doctorate on Mr Blair with maximum speed and the minimum of disturbance. That sound strategy seems now to have been

abandoned. Oxford's latest bout of reluctance, whatever details emerge, will inevitably be associated with the college fee issue. On this question, the university has an exceptionally strong case. It is an outrage that the Government could seriously consider changing current funding arrangements without offering Oxford the chance to make up the difference through top-up fees. Within Whitehall, all the evidence is that the Prime Minister has sympathised with this argument. Oxford seems singularly to have failed to appreciate this fact.

Meanwhile Oxford is giving heart to its enemies. Anti-Oxford egalitarians, such as Baroness Blackstone, the Minister for Higher Education, have long claimed that the ancient universities were insular institutions, oblivious to wider social trends; whose primary function was not promoting excellence but protecting their narrower interests. No unnecessary help should be given to that cause. This is a strike against Oxford's clear best interest.

The world beyond Magdalen Bridge will see this latest episode as selfish and spiteful. It is perfectly appropriate to honour former students who succeed in politics. The treatment of Baroness Thatcher cannot be reversed; but an honour for Mr Blair would have been an implicit acknowledgement that it was a mistake. The university authorities still have the opportunity to reconsider. The future of college fees, although crucial, should not be linked to honours.

Paying the price for safer food

From Mr Gordon H. Bateman

Sir, Whatever the merits of the proposed Food Standards Agency reports and leading article, January 15, why is it necessary to have a new process to collect the funding money?

The cost of collecting £100 from every food outlet cannot be less than £50 in each case. For a service with universal application, and with the Government having collection services already in place in the form of HM inland Revenue, I fail to see the merits of creating another system.

Yours faithfully,
G. H. BATEMAN,
The Spinney, Upper Warren Avenue,
Caversham, Reading RG4 7EJ.
January 15.

From Mrs Janette Prince

Sir, I take exception to the statement in your leading article today that "since many food poisoning incidents originate on farms", there is no reason for farmers to be exempt from the proposed funding fee.

Most "food" leaves farms in its raw state and is further processed before it reaches the consumer, totally out of our hands, via factories that leave an awful lot to be desired. Most farmers, particularly dairy farmers, already absorb the costs of hygiene inspections and maintaining high-quality milk production, plus regular health checks on our animals. We have to do this to stay in business — no chance for us to pass this expense on to the consumer.

I shall be delighted to have a Food Standards Agency, although I suspect it will have as many problems with "policing" food processing and imports as did the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. As for its funding, why not look to the supermarkets for an input? They have the profit margin created by low prices to producers which are not passed on to the consumer.

Yours faithfully,
JANETTE PRINCE,
Forsside Farm,
Marchington,
Nr Uttoxeter, Staffordshire ST14 8NA.
January 15.

From Mr Mike Evans

Sir, Jack Cunningham's proposed £100 food levy would not even be noticed by supermarkets and other large firms but it could be the final nail in the coffin of the dwindling number of village shops, already reeling under the predation of supermarkets and overregulation from Brussels.

Since last May I have tried to remain optimistic about this new Government, but my patience is becoming exhausted.

Will the first real impact of the Government's policies be the loss of the remainder of our local shops?

Yours faithfully,
MIKE EVANS,
Lodge Farm Cottage,
South Warrimoor,
Hook, Hampshire RG29 1RH.
mike.evans@btinternet.co.uk
January 16.

From the Director of the National Heart Forum

Sir, You state in the heading to today's leading article that "the point of a food agency is safer food and nothing else". I cannot agree.

The real crisis for food in this country today lies with the poor nutritional quality of our diet. Poor diet is fundamental to the development of our two leading killers, heart disease and cancer, and the statistics speak for themselves.

For every one premature death from food poisoning, an estimated 400 people will die early from diet-related cardiovascular disease; a similar number will die prematurely from diet-related cancers. And for every million pounds spent by the NHS on treating food poisoning, around £12 million is spent treating diet-related cardiovascular disease.

Does it not therefore make sense for the agency to provide the means — including policies, research and information — by which the public is protected from diet-related heart disease and cancer as well as from BSE and salmonella?

Yours sincerely,
IMOGEN SHARP,
Director,
National Heart Forum,
Tavistock House South,
Tavistock Square, WC1H 9LG.
January 15.

Falling standards?

From Mrs Susan George

Sir, I am driven to write to you concerning the increasing use in *The Times* recently of a deplorable working-class expression — to "fall" pregnant (today in "Couple can sue over vasectomy baby" [early editions] and again in "Three little surprises who beat the lights"). You do not "fall" — you become pregnant.

If we cannot look to *The Times* writers to give us decent English, where can we look?

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN GEORGE,
(Only in my 50s, despite living in Budleigh Salterton),
9 Westbourne Terrace,
Budleigh Salterton,
Devon EX9 6BR.
January 10.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 6NN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Japan's attitude to former PoWs

From Colonel P. S. W. Dean (read)

Sir, As a prisoner of the Japanese 53 years ago I welcome the recent statement by the Japanese Prime Minister (report and leading article, January 13).

Emperor Akihito of Japan is to make a state visit in May, when he will naturally respond to words of welcome from HM the Queen. What a golden opportunity this is for him to express his support for the sentiments of his Government. Unlike Emperor Hirohito, in whose name all wartime edicts were made, he is solely the symbol and ceremonial head of his country. This, together with his age, absolves him from responsibility for any wartime events.

A gesture from him would alleviate his Government's fears that the visit might be marred by difficulties. And I am sure it would bury this sad chapter to a satisfactory conclusion for both British and Japanese veterans.

Yours faithfully,
P. S. W. DEAN,
(Military Attaché, Tokyo, 1960-64),
Foresters, Tosock,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9PJ.
January 14.

From Mr Kevin Hyett

Sir, Why do we have to ask the Japanese for an apology? The fact that they won't give compensation is ample proof, after 53 years, that they regret only losing the war, nothing else, and that an apology now is meaningless.

Our cemeteries all over South East Asia are mute testimony to the deeds of the Japanese Imperial Army. The massacres, rapes and tortures are too well documented to be evaded.

Japan hopes our old soldiers will die off and solve the problem for them. Its unwillingness to confront the truth will forever leave a lasting stain on the nation. Those who doubt this should study the address by Emperor Hirohito to the Japanese people early in August 1945, announcing the cessation of hostilities. "Surrender" is not mentioned.

Kind regards,
KEVIN HYETT,
Dunvegan, Steven's Lane,
Felstead, Essex CM6 3NJ.
January 14.

From Mr Martyn Day

Sir, Your leading article today suggests that the Japanese might contribute to a fund, to be set up by the

British Government, for prisoners of war down on their luck in their last years.

Although the PoWs would have no problem with the sort of fund you suggest, taking in contributions from groups such as Japanese companies, they would totally reject it if its object was to operate as a hardship fund. Indeed, it is very surprising that you could suggest that the people who have suffered so much at the hands of the Japanese should have to face going cap in hand to them in the last years of their life.

The PoWs/internees have always claimed that money should be paid to them as a matter of right rather than as a matter of need. As solicitor to the Japanese Labour Camps Survivors Association and the Association of British Civilian Internees (Far East Region), I would hope that you will in future support that claim.

Yours sincerely,
MARTYN DAY,
Leigh Day & Co (solicitors),
Priory House,
25 St John's Lane, EC1M 4LB.
January 13.

From Captain Hugo Bracken, RN (ret)

Sir, The Japanese may assert that they were "starving" in 1951, as your leading article points out, but their industrial production had by then already exceeded that achieved in 1936.

The truth is that the Americans were obsessed with the fear that Japan might, like China, go communist and would not countenance any penalties being imposed on Japan. Britain, dependent as it was on the Marshall Plan and US support in Europe, had no option but to accept this policy. In so doing it signed away the rights of former prisoners of war to seek adequate compensation.

Both the US and the Canadian Governments compensated their former prisoners, but HMCG has consistently refused to do so, as it always has done while, this time, hiding its obligations by blaming the Japanese.

Kipling was right when he wrote: "For it's Tommy that, an' Tommy that, an' 'Chuck him out, the bruv' But it's 'Saviour of 'is country' when the guns begin to shoot."

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
HUGO BRACKEN,
No 2 Bishopscroft, Camden Park,
Tunbridge Wells TN2 5AA.
January 14.

Police and the media

From the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police

Sir, Responsibility for ensuring that the public have accurate information about crime, and about police activity, lies with politicians, police and the media (article, "The Yard is keeping us in the dark", January 8; letters, January 10). It is inevitable that we each have our own priorities and objectives, which can lead to the tragedy of a society believing in its own decline when crime levels are in fact falling, consistently and significantly.

It is my firm belief that the people we serve, and to whom we are accountable, have a right to know what the crime situation is, and what is being done to improve it. Thames Valley has a policy of openness with the media, from local officers speaking to the press to our co-operation in producing the BBC2 four-part "fly on the wall" series, *The Force*, starting next week. There are risks involved in a policy which encourages contact with the media, and trust has to be built.

The recent publication of a "good news" factsheet produced on behalf of the Police Service — highlighting, for

example, figures showing there have been 1.4 million fewer victims of crime since 1992 — was virtually ignored by the media. This was disappointing and not untypical. In my view it is irresponsible for the media to ignore information of such public importance.

I am a realist. As a Chief Constable I have come to expect that good news does not get the same coverage as bad news. But by publicising positive stories the reports of rare horrific crimes can be put in perspective. Building local community confidence is an effective springboard to cutting crime and improving quality of life. The media, by reporting responsibly, has the opportunity to give individuals reason to feel confident that crime can be, and is being, significantly reduced. And with that confidence I have no doubt that crime can be driven down much further still.

Success, after all, breeds success. But not if it is kept secret.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES POLLARD,
Chief Constable,
Thames Valley Police,
Thames Valley Police Headquarters,
Kidlington, Oxfordshire OX5 2NX.
January 12.

Islamic schools

From Father David Lawrence-March

Sir, As a former chaplain to a voluntary-aided Church of England secondary school in Westminster, may I say how heartened I am to read of the decision to bestow grant-maintained status on two Islamic primary schools (report, January 10).

My experience of the courtesy, openness and respect shown towards Christianity by the many Muslim pupils and staff with whom I came into contact convinced me of the rightness to grant voluntary-aided status to those Islamic schools that reach the criteria required within the Judeo-Christian tradition already granted such status.

One hopes that such a move will go not a small way towards the establishment of the mutual tolerance so necessary between the different religious

traditions that now exist within, and indeed enrich, the cultural milieu of present-day British society.

I remain, yours faithfully,
DAVID LAWRENCE-MARCH,
The Rectory, Church Street,
Holt, Norfolk NR25 6BB.
January 10.

From Pastor Graham J. Horsnell

Sir, Whilst an advocate of freedom of religion, I shall save my rejoicing over the recent announcement about state-funding of two Islamic schools in Britain until I hear that a stronghold of Islam — Saudi Arabia — has put an end to its unashamed persecution of Christians.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM HORSNELL,
(Pastor, Downs Free Church),
23 Warren Avenue,
Woodingdean, Brighton BN2 6BJ.
January 12.

Tango diplomacy

From Sir Rex Hunt

Sir, Simon Jenkins wants us to resume the "Malvinas" tango that he alleges we were dancing to the proper tune — "leasback" — before 1982 (column, January 10). But, as Nicholas Ridley discovered, it takes three to do the "Malvinas" tango, and he could not get the band to play.

Falkland Islanders are no more likely to accept "leasback" now than they were then. No matter how many tangos our diplomats may dance, Simon Jenkins's assumption that one day "a democratic Argentina will assume responsibility for the Falklands"

can only become a fact if a British Government imposes a settlement on the islanders against their wishes. Is this what our Armed Forces gave their lives for in 1982?

Yours sincerely,
REX HUNT,
(Governor, Falkland Islands, 1980-85),
Old Woodside, Broomfield Park,
Sunningdale, Berkshire SL5 0US.
January 14.

Sport letters, page 37

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5016.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Threat to cyclists' 'last refuge'

From Mr Neil Thomson

Sir, The decision to permit traffic wardens and police to impose on-the-spot fines of £20 on cyclists using pavements (News in brief, January 14) is a damning indictment of official attitudes to this most environmentally friendly form of urban transport.

Many city roads are too dangerous and congested for cyclists, particularly when transporting young children to school, as I do most days. The pavement is often the cyclists' last refuge.

Cyclists should be treated sympathetically by wardens where no alternative safe route is available. Or are we to be forced back into our cars?

Yours sincerely,
NEIL THOMSON,
51 Cathness Road, W14 0JD.
January 14.

From Mrs Jane Woolrich

Sir, I hold no brief for cyclists who scorch through our pedestrianised shopping areas or on urban pavements; but I feel it is safer and more sensible to cycle on the wide, often largely unused footpaths along main roads in the suburbs and on the outskirts of towns, even if this is illegal.

In some towns this is of course allowed — Taunton has a good network of urban cycleways — but the inconsistency of what is or is not permitted is ludicrous. Perhaps local authorities should be forbidden to impose these new fines until they have made adequate provision for safe cycling.

Yours sincerely,
JANE WOOLRICH,
Canal Side, Hunkworth,
Bridgewater, Somerset TA7 0AJ.
January 15.

From Mr Peter Knottley

Sir, Your report today that cycling on pavements "flouts a 163-year-old law intended to protect pedestrians". Since this law was enacted some 50 years before the bicycle became popular, it seems that, even then, there were inconsiderate carter.

Yours sincerely,
PETER KNOTTLEY,
32 Mickleham Gardens,
Cheam, Surrey SM3 8QJ.
January 14.

The right stuff

From Professor Emeritus Michael Bond

Sir, At last something in your columns on which I am a real expert (report, January 13). What you do is this. Turn the duvet cover inside out. Clasp in each hand the two inside far corners of the cover, and (through them) the two top corners of the duvet. Go to the top of the stairs, and firmly holding these two points, throw the bulk of the duvet and the cover over the banisters. The cover will fall neatly and squarely, right way out, over the duvet. Haul it back up, and do the poppers.

Not much use to those in flats or bungalows, I'm afraid, but there you are.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL BOND,
Hesthorne,
Colyton, Devon EX23 6RS.
mbond@ceipss.co.uk
January 13.

From Mr Andrew Wood

Sir, 1. Start by washing duvet cover inside out. 2. Reach inside and grasp two "top" corners of duvet through cover. 3. Shake arms as in "Mexican wave" — cover will unroll itself over duvet. 4. Put clothes pegs on corners and position closed end at head of bed. 5. Tuck bottom corners into cover and close. 6. Remove clothes pegs. 7. (Optional) Assume "what a good/clever boy I am" look, and pour congratulatory whisky.

It's all so easy my wife lets me do it every week.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WOOD,
3 Western Road, N2 9JD.
January 14.

From Mr Alexander Donald

Sir, Take a tip from a lazy bachelor. Open the bottom seam in two places to make six-inch hand-holes; reach through and pull the duvet into the cover.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER DONALD,
904 Kings Court,
Ramsey, Isle of Man IM5 1LP.
January 13.

From Mr R. D. Parkinson

Sir, The course in duvet handling in North Yorkshire received blanket media coverage. If you fail, do you get sent down?

Yours etc,
R. D. PARKINSON,
13 Childsford Road, SW17 8EY.
January 13.

For older readers

From Mr D. B. Jenkin

Sir, My mother-in-law was disappointed to see that one of the free magazines you are promoting is billed as "a guide to modern life for women in the late nineties". She is only 93.

Yours faithfully,
D. B. JENKIN,
30 Hare Hill Close,
Plyford, Surrey GU22 8UH.
January 14.

OBITUARIES

GEORGE POTTINGER

George Pottinger, civil servant, died on January 15 aged 81. He was born on June 11, 1916.

The name of George Pottinger will forever be associated with the Poulson corruption scandal which led to the resignation of the former Home Secretary, Reginald Maudling. For a time it seemed to threaten the integrity of public life and it certainly ended the career of the flamboyant Newcastle city boss, T. Dan Smith. No evidence ever emerged, however, to suggest that Pottinger himself — a brilliant civil servant, tipped as a future Permanent Secretary at the Scottish Office — had actually given favours in return for bribes. His conviction on charges of conspiracy to corrupt came after he had admitted receiving gifts worth £20,000 from the architect John Poulson. He maintained that, while he might have been guilty of foolishness, he had not acted corruptly himself, and had declared the gifts to his superiors at the Scottish Office. He had never met either Maudling or Smith. The myth that he had helped steer contracts for the massive development project at the Aviemore skiing resort in the 1960s is effectively demolished by the fact that he met Poulson for the first time at the ceremony to mark the opening of the Aviemore complex.

Some measure of the ambivalence felt about the Pottinger affair may be gauged from the readiness with which Sir Ronald Johnston, a former head of the Home and Health Department at the Scottish Office, deposited at the National Library of Scotland a tape which states: "George Pottinger was convicted of a crime he did not commit."

Nevertheless, the Pottinger story is one of an undoubted high-flyer brought low by a combination of naivety and arrogance, as well as by the political climate of the time. There is strong evidence to suggest that his weekend arrest at Muirfield Golf Club in 1973 was carried out to



forestall evidence about to emerge in a bankruptcy case involving Poulson. Maudling, until 1972 Home Secretary, had already been named as a recipient of gifts, and there were fears that other ministers were about to be dragged in. Police officers from Leeds arrived at 11pm on Friday June 22 during a black-tie dinner, and removed Pottinger in handcuffs. The charges of conspiracy meant that any embarrassing evidence in the bankruptcy case was halted by the rules of sub judice.

William George Pottinger was born a son of the Manse and brought up in the places where his Orcadian father served variously as minister — Glasgow, Dunbar, and Edinburgh. Educated at George Watson's College and Glasgow Academy, he won a

scholarship to Queens' College, Cambridge, where he took a BA in Anglo-Saxon studies. Joining the Army as a gunner he served in the Second World War reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel and being mentioned in dispatches after the Battle of Monte Cassino, where he was an ADC to General Alexander.

He joined the Scottish Office after passing the Civil Service exam and rose rapidly to become secretary of the Department of Scottish Agriculture. His partnership with his Secretary of State, Hector McNeill, is still remembered as a period of "big ideas" in Scotland, and his later work with James Stuart, who enjoyed the confidence of Winston Churchill, was a stimulating and creative time for both men. He served on the Royal Commission of Scottish Affairs, and

was appointed CVO in 1953 and CB in 1972 — both of which were stripped from him after his conviction. In the early 1970s he was seconded to work with Sir Hugh Fraser to promote tourism in Scotland. It was in this capacity that the fateful meeting with Poulson took place at Aviemore. The Leeds architect had built up one of the largest practices in Europe, using a network of MPs, council officials and friends in high places to help him to secure the lucrative contracts that characterised the 1960s boom. He probably saw Pottinger as another useful string to his bow.

There is no doubt that the two took to each other. In his unpublished autobiography, *The Price*, Poulson describes Pottinger as "the most exceptional man I have ever met". For his part, Pottinger, in the course

of his trial at Leeds Crown Court, compared Poulson, somewhat injudiciously, to Napoleon. Poulson benefited from the sophistication of an experienced civil servant, who helped him with advice on how to write speeches, and present himself to politicians. Within a few years of their meeting, Poulson had designed for his friend a luxurious villa overlooking the Muirfield course and had paid part of the mortgage as "a gift".

After his conviction, Pottinger was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, reduced on appeal to four years, most of which he spent at Ford Open Prison, where he was visited by, among others, Sir Alec Douglas-Home and by the former Scottish Secretary, John MacKay. Friends such as John Mackintosh, MP, campaigned energetically for him to receive early parole and were shocked when this was withheld. Pottinger always said afterwards that his training in the Army and at public school had helped him survive the experience of prison.

A witty and engaging character who was, by universal accord, great fun to be with, he retained the friendship of a wide group of people who remained loyal to him. The Savile Club in London insisted that he remain a member. Edinburgh was less forgiving. He was drummed out of Muirfield and the New Club.

He had been an author before his conviction, and he carried on with this career after his release, producing 12 works ranging from a biography of Hugh Fraser through a history of Muirfield and a study of the courts of the Medici to a book on the Scottish Enlightenment and the realisable Crichton, as well as a novel. He was working on a survey of "modern Scottish heroes" at the time of his death. A fit and active man, he died in the course of a tennis foursome in which he and his partner were winning.

He leaves his widow, Margaret, and a son.

GULZARI LAL NANDA



Gulzari Lal Nanda, twice Prime Minister of India, died on January 15 at the age of 99. He was born on July 4, 1908.

TWICE, after the deaths of Nehru and of Lal Bahadur Shastri, the temporary political vacuum in India was filled by Gulzari Lal Nanda but on each occasion the Congress Party passed over his claims to hold the highest office and chose another leader.

Nanda had begun his career as a teacher of economics in the National College, Bombay, where he came into contact with Gandhi. He was one of the pioneers of the Indian trade union movement.

In August 1963 Nanda was Minister of Labour and deputy chairman of the planning commission, an inconspicuous though dutiful member of Nehru's Government. But then the so-called Kamaraj plan — under which Nehru eased six ministers out of his Cabinet — brought Nanda forward to prominence. He became Home Minister, which in India is a key portfolio. More importantly, the removal of many in the senior ranks of Congress left him the second man in the Government. By the following May he had done little to suggest that he was the type of politician to grow into the demands of unexpected supreme power; nevertheless, he was to be elevated by fate.

When Nehru died on May 27, 1964, President Radhakrishnan called Nanda and swore him in as Prime Minister. It was the President's view that the constitution required that there should at all times be a Prime Minister. He made it plain to Nanda when he swore him in that in his view this was a stop-gap arrangement, good only until the Congress Party elected a new leader; but as there was no constitutional provision for a temporary Prime Minister, Nanda held the office in fact as well as name.

As there were two main contenders for the post, Morarji Desai and Lal Bahadur Shastri, and as the Congress Party — confronted at last with the moment of truth "after Nehru" — was strongly disinclined to see a divisive contest, there was a chance that Nanda would be confirmed as Prime Minister. As a union leader he was an acceptable choice to the left wing of the party, and he was lent support by Indira Gandhi, the late Prime Minister's daughter.

In the event, the party avoided a contest but chose Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Nanda had to step down. He stayed Home Minister, however, and remained the second figure in the Cabinet.

Then, in the small hours of January 11, 1965, word came to Delhi from Tashkent that the Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri, had died there a few hours after signing the Tashkent declaration with President Ayub and Premier Kosygin. Nanda's hour had come again, and the drama was re-enacted. Again Nanda was called to the presidential palace, again he was sworn in as Prime Minister, again he hoped and worked for the party's confirmation in that office. But again it chose another leader, and a few days later Nanda had to step down in favour of Mrs Gandhi.

By then his handling of the Home Ministry had become a cause of disquiet in political circles, and Mrs Gandhi tried to drop him from her Cabinet. Nanda's resistance was so violent (bringing him at last to a physical collapse in the house of the Congress president) that Mrs Gandhi relented, and made him Home Minister once more.

Nanda was much drawn to the company of *sadhus*, and as the founder of the Bharat Sadhu Samaj, an all-India association of these often mendicant and usually peripatetic religious men, he had their considerable support. But it was the *sadhus* who were at last to bring him down.

Through the later months of 1966, orthodox religious and right-wing political bodies joined in agitation designed to force the Government to ban the slaughter of cows. This reached a climax on November 7 with a huge procession to the gates of Parliament in Delhi. Nanda had been assured that the demonstration would be non-violent, and the police numbers were kept to a minimum so that the crowd would not be provoked. So when the *sadhus*, many of them naked, and their supporters tried to storm Parliament's gates, the police were unable to dissipate the vast angry crowd with their usual *lathi* charges and tear-gas, and had to open fire with rifles.

Gunfire and the sight of dead and wounded just outside Parliament came as a deep shock in the capital. It was the climax of a wave of violence that seemed to be threatening parliamentary democracy. There was an instant demand for a new and strong hand in the Home Ministry, and one without personal sympathy for the cause of the cow. Mrs Gandhi asked for Nanda's resignation. He returned to the back benches, and there he stayed until retirement in the 1970s.

Last year he received India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna. He is survived by a daughter and two sons.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL TONY DUNCAN

Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Duncan, OBE, golfer and administrator, died on January 3 aged 83. He was born in Cardiff on December 10, 1914.

THE DUNCAN family are regarded as the founding fathers of Welsh golf. Tony Duncan's father, John, was chairman of the Welsh Golfing Union for nearly 20 years and a founder member of the Southerndown Golf Club near Porthcawl. He also won two Welsh championships. John's sister, Blanche, won five. His wife, Margery, won three Welsh amateur championships, and Tony himself, one of the Duncans' three children, won four championships, making a total of 14 for the family. Each of Tony's brothers also reached the semi-final of the Welsh Championship.

Anthony Arthur Duncan spent his childhood in South Wales, though he went away to school at Rugby. At Oxford, he began by reading mathematics but switched to history after a year. He began his golf



at Southerndown by tooting around with his parents, and he was always indebted to that club for naming a blind eye to the sight of the Duncan boys playing before they were old enough to become junior

members. At Rugby, he played cricket well enough to achieve an opening partnership of 100 with David (later Sir David) Steel of BP in both innings of a match against Marlborough. He later represented Glamorgan on several occasions.

But it was at golf that he excelled. Having learnt his golf on the windy heights of Southerndown, he was never afraid of blustery conditions. His swing was, by his own admission, short and functional. "I was not a very good wooden player, but I kept the ball in play," he once said. "I was a useful iron player, particularly good in a wind. My friends would say I had a deadly short game. I putted extremely well."

Ted Dexter recalls playing Duncan when he captained Cambridge in a match against Worplesdon. "On the first tee I saw this old buffer in plus-fours with a small bag and a funny swing and I thought to myself 'Poor bugger. What chance has he got against the great Dexter?' Off we went. He would go 'poo' and hit the ball with that jerky swing of his. Then he would line up his putts and 'ylog' in they would go. He beat me by one hole. Duncan relished match-play. He reached the final of

the 1939 Amateur, the first Welshman to do so, before losing to Alex Kyle. He became the first Welshman to captain a Walker Cup team, losing 9-3 to the US in 1953, though Duncan was so busy with administration that he declined to play himself.

In a foursome, an American player was discovered to have clubs in his bag, too many. Although the Americans wanted to disqualify him, Duncan demurred. "This is ridiculous," he said. "We have not come 3,000 miles to win a 36-hole match by default on the second hole." We thumbed the rulebook and found one that said in exceptional circumstances the penalty may be disqualified. The next morning the local paper headline was "Great Britain waives the rules".

Duncan reached the final of five Welsh championships, losing only one. He played in 15 home international series, and is one of only two Welsh men to have won every match one year. He won the President's Putter twice and was

runner-up once. He was Army champion six times between 1937 and 1956, and runner-up on four other occasions.

He represented Oxford in the Varsity matches of 1934, 1935 and 1936, and became a Walker Cup selector and chairman of the Welsh selectors, as well as president of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society. For years he was the most knowledgeable spectator at matches in the President's Putter at Rye, imparting his acute observations in a parade-ground voice that often carried across several fairways.

The Duncan family name will always be associated with amateur golf because of the staging each spring at Southerndown of the Duncan Putter, a 72-hole, two-day invitation competition for leading amateurs. The hickory-shafted putter was one of John Duncan's, presented for the competition by Tony and his wife Ann in 1959. Ann died in 1985, and Tony Duncan is survived by two sons.

THE HON PENELOPE PIERCY

The Hon Penelope Piercy, CBE, missionary and civil servant, died on December 27 aged 81. She was born on April 15, 1916.

PENELOPE PIERCY'S powerful personality could never be ignored. Her High Anglican faith sustained her throughout her life, and she held strong left-wing views, though these could not find expression in her work in Whitehall. She was often intellectually dominant — like her formidable father, the 1st Baron Piercy — and her intolerance could lead to difficulties in her personal relationships. Her determination and courage were demonstrated by her setting off for China as a missionary during the Second World War. China was then partly occupied by the

Japanese, and she had to take a roundabout route across the Atlantic, through the Panama Canal and across the Pacific. From Rangoon she travelled by lorry along the dangerous Burma Road to Kunming. She greatly admired the Communists, who were just coming to power in parts of the country, and praised their integrity and fairness in the distribution of scarce resources. She worked as a lecturer in Western languages, and left China for India only when all her possessions and her living quarters were destroyed by fire.

During her time in India, which she much enjoyed, her views became more attuned to the Establishment, as befitted her job in Military Intelligence. She was silent about this work in later years, though she did once remark that the movements of every

Japanese ship were known in Delhi.

Later in life, she showed her mettle once again when she retired early from the Civil Service at the age of 52 to move to the country and look after a friend who was seriously ill. She was devastated when he died, and soon took the decision to test her faith in the strictest enclosed order of nuns she could find. After six months it was clear that she had no vocation, but she left with a bitter sense of failure.

Penelope Katherine Piercy was educated at St Paul's Girls' School, where she played in the orchestra under Gustav Holst's direction. She won a scholarship in mathematics to Somerville College, Oxford, but graduated in politics, philosophy and economics. Her first job was in London with the Student

Christian Movement which, together with the YWCA, sponsored her in China.

On her return to England in 1945 she worked in the Foreign Office, moving to the Colonial Development Corporation in 1948, where she served until 1954.

The following year she was appointed a senior principal scientific officer in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Here, she performed a useful role as an economist among predominantly scientific staff, and acted as secretary to the committee on engineering design under the chairmanship of G. B. R. Feilden. When the committee was being set up and Penelope Piercy's name was put to Lord Hailsham he commented: "Ah, Miss Piercy: no one who has met her will forget the experience."



When the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was wound up in 1965, Piercy moved to the Ministry of Technology under Tony

Benn, where her main task was to make the machine-tool industry competitive. She also worked on early plans for the Channel Tunnel. She retired with the rank of under-secretary, having been appointed CBE in 1968.

Two of her lifelong interests were birds and wild flowers. During happy holidays when she was a child, she and her brother explored Suffolk on bicycles, bird-watching, and later, in France and Spain, she would make detours to see particular birds. She was also an energetic gardener.

Penelope Piercy never married, but shared a flat with Michael Maurice in St James's Street, moving with him to Mawarden Court, Old Sarum, when she retired. After his death, she was unsettled until she moved to Blandford in Dorset.

Latest wills

Jessie Bentley, of London N2, left estate valued at £63,757 net. She left £5,000 each to British O.R.I. Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and Jewish Care, £5,000 to North London Hospice, and £3,000 to the North Western Reform Synagogue. Mr Arthur James Benjamin Kingston, of Eastbourne left estate valued at £1,002,593 net. Among other bequests he left £10,000 to Cheshire Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen. Doris Twell, of Mews Styl, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,719,752 net. She left £20,000 to the Cheshire Reform Congregation, Manchester, and £10,000 to Brookvale for the Mentally Handicapped. Edith Appleyard, of Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £580,598 net. She left shares in the RSPCA (Hull branch), RNIB (Hull branch) and the Whyte Turn Watson Trust of

Bradford War on Cancer. Other estates include (all figures net valuations, excluding tax): Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Remington-Hobbs, of London SW1, £1,369,596. Sir Nicholas Baker, of Rottling, Hampshire, £1,940,065. Mr Andre Felix De Breyne, of London SW1, £8,667,348. Mrs Nicolet Mary Gray, of London SW5, £6,020,491. Mr Roger Norman Stowell, of Kent, Somerset, £3,924,391. Mrs Margaret Stinger, of London SW5, £2,266,421. Mrs Maurice Boyd, of Aldenham, Hertfordshire, £1,203,750. Margaret Isabelle Hall, of Lymington, Hampshire, £1,268,860. Mr Harry Archibald Lane, of Wembley Park, London NW1, £1,274,774. Eileen Mary Ollivier, of Branton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, £1,492,551.

Miss Anna Bridget Flawley, of London, SW2, £994,825. Barbara Ann Pridmore, of Kingston, Somerset, £1,261,841. Mrs Kythe Doran Richmond, of Redford, Nottinghamshire, £1,413,795. Mr Norman Alfred Sobey, of Littlehampton, West Sussex, £1,062,734. Dorothy Edith Bailey, of Bordon, Hampshire, £656,394. Margery Barlow, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, £688,911. Thomas Raymond Anthony Bevan, of Putney, London, £743,453. Derek William Bigley, of Streatham, Shropshire, £672,159. Arthur Ewart Bloomer, of Prestatyn, Denbighshire, £768,199. Edna Amelia Corbett, of St Anne's-on-Sea, Lancashire, £948,057. Patrick Geoffrey Corbett, of Crowborough, East Sussex, £548,077. Alfred George Culliford, of

Lymington, Hampshire, £761,776. Magdalena Enkelstad, of London SW19, £581,260. Eric Edward Frank Forman, of Ealing, London W5, £618,943. Reginald Eric Griffin, of Newbury, Berkshire, £588,649. Patricia Anne Guest, of Long Common, Hampshire, £634,068. Audrey Elizabeth Agnes Hall, of Radbrook, Shropshire, £499,496. Sylvia Ivy Harrington, of Handley, Salisbury, £508,086. Group Captain John Austen Hill, of London W8, £847,598. Suzanne Jeffries of Stroud, Gloucestershire, £672,625. Hilma Elisabeth Jones, of Pontardawe, Swansea, £564,570. Samuel Ralph Lockett, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, £656,573. Kathleen Annie Marshall, of Kendal, Cumbria, £900,552. Thomas Francis Partridge, of Merle, of Burgess Hill, West Sussex, £580,102 net.

TRAVELS IN THE AIR

We will endeavour to give our readers some idea of the difficulties, pleasures and dangers of aerial navigation by following an imaginary aeronaut from the earth to the clouds and back to the earth again.

He has succeeded in borrowing (for there seems to be a great deal of borrowing among aeronauts) a balloon, and has had it conveyed overnight to the gasworks. He has secured the services of an experienced balloon captain and has borrowed from various societies a number of beautiful and delicate instruments where with to make his observations.

At day-break the two aeronauts — or as we call them for the sake of distinction, the philosopher and the aeronaut — and their friends start for the gasworks and commence filling the balloon. Balloons and some vicinals are stowed away in the car, the instruments are fixed, and the direction of the wind is ascertained. The balloon gradually inflates, the wind rises, and what between the wind and the gas it is all that 50 men can do to keep the monster from breaking clean away.

At last there is a cry that the balloon is full, and that the men can hold it no longer. The two adventurers jump in and away they go with a side sweep which very nearly wrecks them against some conspicuous chimneys.

ON THIS DAY

January 19, 1871

An extract from a review of *Travels in the Air* by James Glaisher, who with Henry Coxwell made a number of balloon ascents in 1862-66.

Perhaps it does, and the balloon in a few minutes comes down in a field a couple of miles off, having never got a thousand feet above the ground, with a great tear in its side, the loss of two or three hundred pounds' worth of gas, and the breakage of the instruments and the aeronauts. Other very frequent stumbles at the threshold may show that the balloon is rotten and that it will not carry ballast enough for safety.

But let us suppose that the aeronaut shoots up into the clouds a great deal faster than he intended to a height of some 5,000 feet. More ballast is discharged and up and up they go till the philosopher's face becomes a "glowing

purple" and his heart palpitates audibly.

He does not mind this, but watches the falling mercury and busily records the readings of the instruments, until the aeronaut announces that the balloon is stationary and that he can spare no more ballast. Perhaps some *contretemps* has happened: the balloon has been gyrating and the valve line became twisted, as with Messrs. Glaisher and Coxwell; or it may have passed through a snow-cloud and thence into the rays of the sun, which have melted the snow from the covering and expanded the gas, giving our travellers a most dangerous impetus upwards — an impetus which may be brought to a stop by the bursting of the balloon "with a loud report".

The aeronaut and the philosopher hang on to the valve line, gas rushes out in volumes, and the balloon falls. Presently the snow-cloud is entered again, the ropes and car and covering are clogged with snow, the fall is terrible accelerated, and the earth is seen approaching "with frightful rapidity". The remaining ballast is thrown out; nevertheless the balloon takes the ground with a bump that breaks all the instruments, and after rolling and dragging and bounding along "at the speed of an express train", tearing itself to pieces, the grappled hooks and it is brought up, perhaps in the middle of a marsh...

0715 000000

SNOOKER

Defeated
Hendry
lost for
words

By PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY, the title-holder, and Ken Doherty, the world champion, were the most notable casualties on a day at the Regal Welsh Open in Newport when reputation, experience and past records counted for little.

Hendry, without a tournament win since the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters ten months ago, was visibly rocked by his 5-4 defeat to Jamie Burnett. A number of perfectly reasonable questions were posed at the post-match press conference but Hendry only answered with a mumble, a shrug of the shoulders or, when asked if he was at a loss to explain his ineffective form, an affirmative nod.

Hendry looked to have weathered the storm when he rallied from the loss of the first two frames to lead 4-2 with breaks of 67, 100, 40 and 85. However Burnett, who practises alongside him at Spencers, Stirling, stubbornly stuck to the task, eventually winning a fraught, 39-minute deciding frame on the blue.

Doherty appeared to be heading for a relatively untroubled passage when he established a 3-1 lead but Tony Chappel, who had compiled a 112 break in the second frame, finished far the stronger as he accounted for the closing four.

"Of course, it's a bad result," Doherty, far more talkative than Hendry, admitted. "I've been practising really hard and putting in lots of work on my game lately but obviously that hasn't paid off."

Mark Williams, another player low on confidence after failing to live up to expectations in recent months, was beaten 5-3 by Nick Walker, of Chester, who settled early nerves with runs of 122 and 94.

Peter Ebdon also sailed close to the wind before advancing while John Parrott sealed a 5-3 victory over Paul Davies by fluking the black in the eighth frame. Ebdon, successful in only one of his previous five matches this season, displayed admirable fortitude in rallying from a 4-1 deficit to edge Stuart Pettman 5-4. "My character carried me through," Ebdon, who rounded off his lightbulb with a 107 break, said.

Having required only 58 minutes to overwhelm Stephen O'Connor 5-1 on Saturday, O'Sullivan, who compiled two century breaks, goes forward to meet Jimmy White, also fluent when beating Mark Davis 5-2.

ICE SKATING

Butryskaya
makes most
of her chanceFROM ANGELA COURT
IN MILAN

THE European figure skating championships ended here on Saturday with a women's final littered with errors.

After the short programme on Friday, any of the leading three — Tanja Szewczenko, Russia; Irina Slutskaya, Belarus; and Maria Butryskaya, a 25-year-old Russian who, unlike the other three, had not won a world championship medal.

The defending champion, Slutskaya, of Russia, twice failed at the loop. Szewczenko, of Germany, put a hand down on her opening triple lutz which set the tone for a series of faulty triple jumps and a single axel instead of the planned double.

Bonaly, of France, made no attempt at the lutz, came to grief on the flip and was not sufficiently rotated on a toe loop in a two triple jump combination.

Butryskaya, lying fifth after the short, completed six triple jumps to be placed first by all nine judges ahead of Slutskaya and Szewczenko.

Julian Muscat finds honesty betraying US Open champion



Rafter, reaching this forehand in Sydney last week, is striving to recover his best form in time to offer a genuine challenge for the Australian Open men's title

It is 12 months to the day since Australia kissed goodbye to the faintly-fingering notion that Pat Rafter had what it takes. The Queenslander had turned 24, had failed to reverse a headlong rush down the world rankings and had just departed the Australian Open at the first hurdle. He was scythed down, barely raising a protest, in straight sets.

If Australia slapped him, metaphorically, in the face, Rafter's response was to bite his lip and turn the other cheek. One year on and he is assured of a rapturous reception tomorrow, when he bestrides the Centre Court in Melbourne. It will be his first grand-slam tournament since September, when he made off into the night with the US Open trophy. To picture the bedlam, just imagine Tim Henman's first day at Wimbledon should he return from Paris — the French Open — victorious.

What makes Rafter's story so endearing is his reaction to all the fuss. He is the type to enjoy a quiet chuckle — or at least, he would have done until a chilling scenario reared its ugly head recently. Learning of his new-found wealth, a woman in the United States accused him of raping her. No semblance of truth surrounded her attempted extortion, but the incident, injudiciously revealed by Rafter in Sydney last week, cuts straight to the core.

Contemporary sporting Levitans are more sanitised than bleach: they are laboratorised by the gleaming hands and fiscal agendas of agents. Rafter is different. He has not been moulded, by the corporate dollar. He is not managed by a company with international tentacles. Uniquely for one of his stature, he doesn't even employ a full-time

Rafter adopts role of
people's champion

coach. He is the people's champion, straightforward and accessible, unadorned by self-importance, yet his reward, from the ordinary people he champions, is the trauma induced by a woman whom he "wouldn't recognise from a bar of soap".

If Rafter's disclosure caused angst to his closely-knit family (he is the seventh of nine children), they will at least understand how it seeped into the public domain. His honesty was wholly to blame. In an audience with four journalists, he related the episode to explain why he was unwilling to reveal the value of some recently signed endorsements.

"Money is not something I like to talk about too much," he started. "There are freaks out there in this world that try to take advantage of that... there was a case in America that came up recently... [a woman] said I'd raped her... She's a psycho anyway, but that really hit home to me... It has all come about because people know the money situation. I found it really scary all of a sudden." With those words, delivered to retrieve him from the frying pan, Rafter had jumped straight into the fire.

That situation would never have arisen with any self-respecting agent

at his shoulder. Doubtless a few, seeking his signature, have informed him of the fact. Doubtless Rafter will continue to ignore them.

What is not in doubt is that tennis urgently needs personable characters like Rafter. With looks to match his swashbuckling game, his appearance in Sydney last week generated minor hysteria in a city whose

guess I keep thinking about the Australian Open," he suggested. "I hope I can feel up for it, but I don't really know how to create that. Mind you, I felt pretty flat going into the US Open and it worked pretty well for me there."

Beyond that, Rafter, world-ranked No. 2, remains the only credible candidate to vanquish Sampras. Yet, even after winning the US Open, the first Australian to do so since John Newcombe in 1973, Rafter lacked conviction in carrying the threat. He rates himself as "one of about 20 guys who are second-best".

Sampras, not amused at the adulation Rafter received in New York, quickly set about turning him down. He condemned Rafter to three brutal beatings in as many months and the scars are plain to see. However, Rafter, given a huge lift from his adoring public, has an opportunity to redress the balance.

He will have alongside him the influences of two former Australian greats in Tony Roche and Newcombe. The latter triggered Rafter's recovery, from two sets down, to beat Cedric Molise in a Davis Cup tie against France, the defending champion, in the aftermath of Rafter's debacle in Melbourne 12 months ago. Newcombe showed belief in Rafter, who now must show some of his own.

Certainly, Rafter will not have to do much to improve his dismal record at the Australian Open, where he has never reached the fourth round, a quirky statistic that prompts the question trailing Rafter like an unwanted shadow. In resisting agents, in making himself available and in doing the whole game a favour, has he the strength to do himself favours out on the court?

'Rafter is different. He
has not been moulded
by the corporate dollar'

sporting audience is reputedly conservative. On Wednesday, when his match was repeatedly delayed by rain, he was unwilling to return to his hotel for fear of running a gauntlet of fans.

"I do find the attention a bit of a strain," he protested mildly. "The people have been fantastic, but I like to live my life. I would like not to be bothered [in Melbourne this week], but in a way I still want to get in amongst them. I want to be just another person in the tournament, just normal."

What he wants and what he will experience are irreconcilable. Rafter

British double act must face the heat alone

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

chance to arrive on a winning note when beaten by Karol Kucera in a tournament he won last year. In contrast to his assured defeat of Rafter 24 hours earlier, the Briton completely lost his rhythm after leading 4-0. His lapse coincided with a revival in Kucera's fortunes. The Slovakian prevailing 7-5, 6-4 in a match largely devoid of inspiration.

Equally surprising was Henman's laissez-faire attitude to defeat. He preferred to accentuate his gains from the week even if a spate of unforced errors, together with further problems on his service, were disturbing. The code violation he received for smashing his racket early in the second set neatly summed up his frustration.

"At times I was over-pressing," Henman said. "I was going for forehands that

were not really on. I'd like to have won, but I feel good about my game and feel confident going into the Australian Open. I feel like I will be difficult to beat." Should Henman overcome Golmard, he will face the winner of the match between Jan Siemerink and Goran Ivanisevic, seeded No. 13.

No British player survived the qualifying rounds after Andrew Richardson and Sam Smith both fell at the final hurdle at the weekend. Smith, ranked No. 126, failed to convert a point for the opening set in her 7-6, 6-4 defeat by Samantha Reeves, from the US and ranked 42 places below her. Richardson lost 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 after a tight struggle with Will, who faces Rusedski.

Witt triumphed over Rusedski in their only previous encounter, on the grass courts of Newport, Long Island, in 1994. However, that should have little bearing on the match tomorrow. While Rusedski, ranked No. 6, has marched up the world order, Witt languishes outside the top 200.

Pete Sampras, the No. 1 seed, was due to begin the defence of his men's singles crown in the early hours this morning. A repeat victory would lift him to within one of Roy Emerson's record haul of 12 grand-slam titles. Sampras is projected to meet Mark Philippoussis, also due on court this morning, in the fourth round. Philippoussis, from Melbourne and seeded No. 15, ousted Sampras in the third round here two years ago. He is one of 17 Australians in the main draw.

In the women's event, Martina Hingis, beaten in the Adidas International in Sydney last week returns to defend the title which propelled her to the No. 1 ranking two months later. The youngest to gain that distinction since women's rankings were introduced in 1975, Hingis, 17, faces strong competition from an even younger collection of rising stars on the women's circuit.



Rusedski: acclimatised



Henman: confident

BOWLS: YOUNG ENTRY FOR WORLD INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Gillett relishes Duff's challenge

By DAVID RHYNS JONES

burgh pair have been drawn to play their fellow Scots, Hugh Duff and David Gourlay. The other 35 competitors are all under 50, a sure sign that the average age of the serious bowler has plummeted in recent years.

Les Gillett, who won the open after coming through the Professional Bowls Association (PBA) qualifier, is a shining example of the new breed of bowler: aged 28, he is confident and

outspoken, almost to the point of being abrasive, and has the potential to become the John McEneaney or Alex Higgins of bowls.

Traditionalists may think that may be a bad thing, but those charged with the responsibility of marketing the game will surely welcome anything that gives the sport a younger,

trendier image: street cred is hard to find in bowls.

In the singles, which starts on Friday, the luck of the draw has pitted Gillett, the man of the moment, against the defending champion, Hugh Duff, who is 33. Such a first-round clash should pack them into the Guild Hall, whatever their age.

"I've told Hugh that, if I beat him, I will win the title," Gillett, who has

HOCKEY

Cannock
find life
difficult
at the top

By SYDNEY FRISKEN

ALTHOUGH Cannock retained the leadership of the National League premier division, their advantage was cut to three points after a 4-2 home defeat by Reading, the title holders, yesterday.

Reading took an early grip on the match with two goals by Ashdown, the second from a short corner. Crutchley replied for Cannock in the 49th minute, but the destiny of the three points was decided in the last eight minutes with two goals by Loose for Reading, countered by another from Crutchley for Cannock.

Canterbury made a profitable visit to Chiswick, where a 5-0 victory over Hounslow kept them in the hunt for the title. The match produced 22 short corners, 13 to Canterbury, but not a single effort was converted, thanks mainly to the vigilance of Taylor and Triggs, the goalkeepers. A timely hand save by Triggs on the stroke of half-time prevented Hounslow from levelling the scores at 1-1.

Wicken had given Canterbury the lead in the sixth minute and that was increased by Hallingworth five minutes into the second half, before Kerly consolidated the position with the third goal in the 57th minute. Hounslow had their moments, but they allowed a couple of early chances to slip away.

Southgate were stretched by Barford Tigers, the home side, who were leading 3-1 with 10 minutes left. Waugh lifted Southgate's fortunes with a goal in the sixtieth minute and Carolan levelled the scores from a short corner to add to his earlier goal, from open play.

Waugh scored what proved the winner for Southgate from a short corner four minutes from time to take them into joint second position with Canterbury. Jimmy Singh, Amarjit Degun and Maninder Soor were the scorers for Barford Tigers.

Stratford retained the leadership of the first division after a 3-2 away win over Oxford University.

Slough rule
the roost
indoors

By CATHERINE HARRIS

SLOUGH made the most of the international talent at their disposal when they secured a place in the last four of the women's national clubs indoor play-offs by finishing unbeaten at the top of the table at Crystal Palace over the weekend.

Although missing Karen Brown and Jane Smith, who are on duty with the England outdoor squad in Australia, Sue MacDonald, of Scotland, scored nine goals in four games with Sarah Kelleher, the Ireland international, also enjoying herself with a couple of hat-tricks.

Chelmsford, who have never won the title, clinched second spot behind the champions with two former winners, Ipswich and Hightown, also qualifying for the round-robin tournament at the end of the month.

Jo Green, who will be in action for the national team at the European championship in Spain later this week, scored 11 times as Chelmsford swept to victories over Leicester, Olton, Hightown and Ipswich.

Leicester are relegated and will change places with Bracknell next season who are promoted after winning the first division.

In the second division, Old Loughtonians won promotion in their debut season. Dulwich and Welton lost their national league status.

The International Hockey Federation has invited England to send two umpires to the World Cup for the first time. Gill Clarke and Jane Nockolds will officiate at the finals in Utrecht in May.

been named as reserve for England's 24-man indoor team, said. It was an idle boast: as a humble PBA qualifier, he defeated four world champions — Duff included — on his way to the Open title.

The WBT have brought the pairs, which used to be played in tandem with the singles, forward, and will complete that event on Friday, before the singles — inevitably regarded as the main event — gets under way.

The best pairs encounter today sees the holders, Mervyn King and Tony Alcock, facing a strong challenge from the youthful Welsh champions, David Harding and Jason Green-slade, who are both 28.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Low cost? ☒ YES!
Full cover? ☒ YES!

Call 0800 77 99 55

to find out more about Primicare, quoting ref M0874NG

Prime Health

Pay less for quality
health insurance.

ALAN SPRINGELL, who steps on to the portable rink at 10am today, and Alex Ross, who rolls his first bowl tomorrow, are the only competitors in the 37-man field gathering at Preston for the Saga world indoor championships who are old enough to benefit from the sponsor's product.

Springell, 58, partnered Gary Grace to the English pairs title last April, and the Handy Cross, High Wycombe, pairing will be challenging the No. 8 seeds, Mark McMahon and Steve Glasdon, from Australia, in the first round.

Ross, 55, won the Scottish championship with his Edinburgh clubmate, Alex Marshall. The Edin-

Headley e

Henson on
Irelandand your pension
the provider

England's tour of West Indies launched with crushing victory

Headley excels in rout of Jamaica

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN JAMAICA

MONTEGO BAY (third day of four): England beat Jamaica by an innings and 65 runs

IT WAS a graphic gauge of conditions at Jarrett Park yesterday that one of the finest wicketkeepers in the world was reduced to wearing a helmet while standing back, and employing the safeguard of an old-fashioned long stop. International cricket can seldom have been played on such a malicious pitch and outfield, yet England steered a determined course through the twin hazards of furore and injury to win their first match impressively.

In the weeks and months to come, England may reflect on this game with pride and relief, though never with pleasure. Their principal achievement during three days of cricketing purgatory has been to avoid physical harm.

Victory was never to be more than a welcome bonus. The scope for broken bones was immense on a surface where one ball would spiral and the next spit at the ribcage. Fielding was scarcely more fun, on what resembled a neglected cowfield. England, however, showed heartening tenacity and spirit, winning with four sessions to spare.

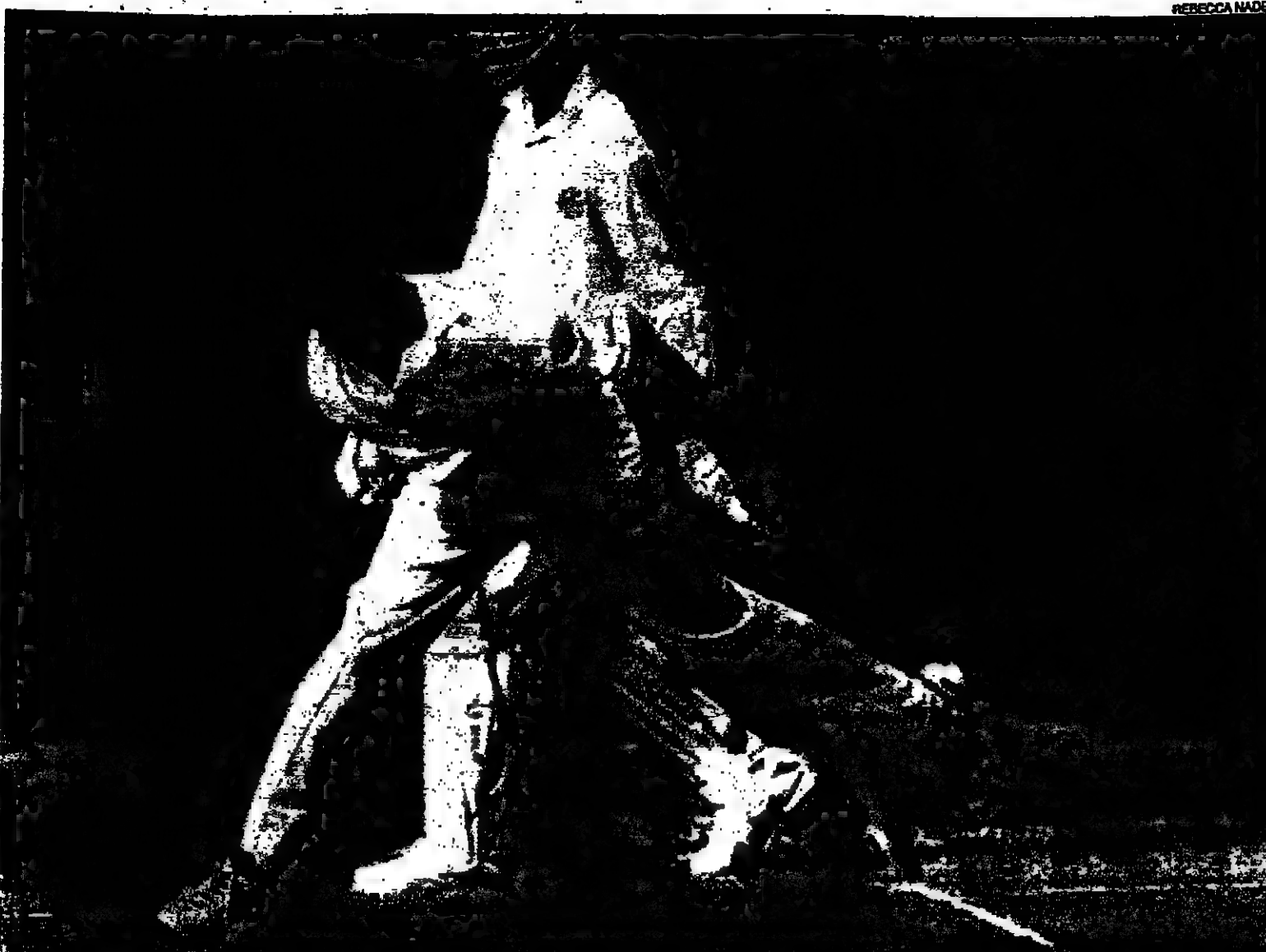
Their first-innings total of 286 for eight was the equivalent of perhaps 450 in more straightforward circumstances and, despite hints of rustiness and the blenheim of continual no-balling, the intended Test match attack ensured that Jamaica never came close.

Conventionally, a touring team with only two warm-up fixtures would resist enforcing a follow-on, preferring additional batting practice. England, with a lead of 161, did not even consider such an option.

Instead, they were in the field again 45 minutes into the third day and quickly advancing towards an innings win. Dean Headley, making an emotional pilgrimage to the homeland of his father and grandfather, was constantly waspish, the best of the quicker bowlers. But to complement the difficulties, Tufnell obtained prodigious turn and bounce.

England's control of this game was enforced on the opening morning, when Atherton and Crawley achieved the substantial feat of survival for two hours. Consolidating from this platform, Graham Thorpe batted with rigid self-restraint for 333 minutes to give his captain the unforeseen luxury of a declaration.

Despite local forecasts to the contrary, the pitch was destined to deteriorate. The



Headley, whose grandfather and father were both born in Jamaica, bowling with relish on a rogue pitch which helped him to achieve fine figures

marks made by the ball on the first day, when the surface was damp, became treacherous craters on the second.

Batting became the equivalent of Russian roulette; wicketkeeping was equally hazardous. Jack Russell, who will play his fiftieth Test next week, has long considered the Caribbean a difficult place to ply his trade, but this was extreme, if not unique.

Like on Saturday, Fraser was posted on the boundary virtually behind him and yesterday Russell, deprived of his faithful, floppy sunhat by a new dress-code, solved the problem by donning a helmet against the seamer. It was not another instance of his eccentricity, simply self-preservation.

The downsides to England's weekend were twofold. From Yorkshire came news that Darren Gough, almost today undergoing surgery on his damaged hamstring, virtually ending his hopes of joining the tour. Here, the discipline of the surviving bowlers was countermanded by an unforgivable number of no-balls.

SCOREBOARD FROM MONTEGO BAY

ENGLAND: First Innings	JAMAICA: First Innings	Second Innings
M A Atherton c Russell b Headley 28	L V Garrick c Russell b Headley 2	L V Garrick c Russell b Headley 2
A J Stewart c Russell b Headley 1	R G Samuel c Russell b Headley 26	R G Samuel c Russell b Headley 26
J P Crawley run out 28	W W Hinds c Russell b Headley 18	W W Hinds c Russell b Headley 18
M Hussain c Adams b Fraser 18	J C Adams c Russell b Headley 9	J C Adams c Russell b Headley 9
G P Thorpe c Russell b Headley 89	M D Ventura c Headley 3	M D Ventura c Headley 3
A J Hopes c Coley b Powell 40	G Brasse b Headley 6	G Brasse b Headley 6
R C Russell c Coley b Williams 20	L R Williams b Headley 0	L R Williams b Headley 0
A R Coddick b Headley 9	TA N Coley b Headley 7	TA N Coley b Headley 7
D W Headley not out 16	B S Murphy not out 26	B S Murphy not out 26
Extras (b 28, lb 4) 32	K Powell c Headley 1	K Powell c Headley 1
Total (b wide 4)	O Richards not out 0	O Richards not out 0
128	Extras (b 9, lb 4, nb 10) 23	Extras (b 9, lb 4, nb 10) 23
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 3-45, 5-78, 6-77, 7-131, 8-219, 9-238, 10-286	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 3-10, 4-21, 5-23, 6-55, 7-53, 8-78, 9-84	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 3-10, 4-21, 5-23, 6-55, 7-53, 8-78, 9-84
BOWLING: Russell 142-40-5, Richards 19-25-1, Williams 33-10-22, Brasse 24-3-38-1, Murphy 18-3-0-64-1, Adams 1-0-0-0	BOWLING: Headley 11-4-14-4, Fraser 5-0-19-0, Coddick 6-3-17-2, Tufnell 13-1-32-4	BOWLING: Headley 11-4-14-4, Fraser 5-0-19-0, Coddick 6-3-17-2, Tufnell 13-1-32-4
Umpires: S A Buxton and G Fletcher	Umpires: S A Buxton and G Fletcher	Umpires: S A Buxton and G Fletcher

There were 21 in the first innings and Tufnell, unfathomably, bowled eight of them.

By contrast, boundaries were at a premium. The two first innings combined produced only 15 fours. Shots struck firmly enough to routinely collect four in most conditions were plugging and pulling up well short of the rope.

Jamaica resumed yesterday in the symbolic sound of hymn being sung at a church outside the main gates. It was more a lament than an exhortation, for the 29 runs required of their last two wickets, to avoid following on, were a remote prospect.

They managed 17 of them but two balls from Headley that scarcely rose above the ankles gave England the position they wanted. Brian Murphy remained unbeaten on 26 but his example was one his superiors chose to ignore.

Leon Garrick, recently back from the West Indies A-team tour of South Africa and theoretically a candidate to open with Sherwin Campbell in the first Test, did his prospects no favours at all, launching an extravagant drive against the last ball of Headley's first over and slicing to gully.

In truth, though, it was hard to be sure what tactics were appropriate. Anything off line was too inviting to ignore and

Hinds perished similarly, fishing against a wide one from Coddick.

Jimmy Adams, who is expected to reclaim his Test place, has had a torrid weekend, twice requiring treatment after being struck painfully on the fingers of his right hand. He resisted stoically while Robert Samuel laid about him but when both were out, either side of lunch, England's three-day win became a formality.

Tufnell took these two pivotal wickets — Samuel stumped and Adams chipping a catch to mid-on — as reward for sustained control. His match figures are relatively unflattering but his rhythm is encouraging.

So too, that of Headley, who comprehensively outbowed both Coddick and Fraser. Without straining for pace, he consistently landed the ball on a length that created uncertainty. Batsmen playing back were confounded by a lack of bounce that, in rapid succession, gained him three afternoon victims and figures of four for 14.

Harsh lessons on paradise island

ENGLAND A were yesterday given a crash course in the disciplines required to combat the problems posed on the subcontinent after their surprising defeat in their opening warm-up game in Colombo.

Graham Gooch, the manager, and the coach, Mike Gatting, have seen it all before on numerous England campaigns to India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and spent many hours warning the young party of the difficulties they may encounter during the eight-week tour to the paradise island.

But despite their briefings, many of the tour squad were still shocked at a number of unprompted decisions, the debatable action of the off spinner, Bathesha de Silva, and the amount of turn on a wicket supposedly prepared for a one-day match in the aftermath of a 40-run defeat by a President's XI on Saturday.

All the players volunteered for an extra net practice today to sharpen their tactics before

tomorrow's three-day match against the President's XI with less than a fortnight before the opening unofficial test in the three-match series against Sri Lanka A in Kurunegala.

Gooch said: "If they were under any illusions about how hot the conditions are over here or how tough the cricket is, then they certainly aren't now. It is obviously disappointing to lose, but it is not all bad. It is better to learn sooner rather than later."

In addition to their hastily scheduled practice session, the squad have also had a team meeting to discuss Saturday's performance, a get-together Gooch used to reinforce the disciplines needed to succeed on the subcontinent.

The Leicestershire pair, Darren Maddy and James Ormond, replace Andrew Flintoff and Paul Hutchinson for the three-day game starting tomorrow.

De Silva secures Sri Lanka victory

ARAVINDA DE SILVA steered Sri Lanka to a five-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the second Test in Colombo yesterday with a magnificent, unbeaten 143.

De Silva, who received excellent support from Arjuna Ranatunga, hit Murray Goodwin through mid-wicket for four to take Sri Lanka past the target of 326 and to a 2-0 victory in the series. The win was completed 30 minutes before tea on the final day.

Ranatunga and De Silva added 189 runs for the sixth wicket, a Sri Lanka record. They came together when Sri Lanka were struggling at 130 for five and carved out the victory, with Ranatunga, who used a runner because of a strained back, remaining not out on 87.

Ranatunga, the captain, batted for 309 minutes and faced 232 balls, hitting 12 fours to complete his thirtieth half-century in 76 Tests. "It was a good game and I think both sides are well balanced,"

vinda's excellent knock," Ranatunga said. "Despite my back injury I gained a lot of confidence when I saw Aravinda playing the shots."

De Silva's innings lasted 313 balls and spanned 459 minutes. He hit two sixes and 16 fours. It was his sixteenth Test century, and fifth in the past six innings he has played at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground. Alistair Campbell, the Zimbabwe captain, said: "It was a good game and I think both sides are well balanced."

India response with a superb 124, sharing a rousing first-wicket stand of 71 in 8.2 overs with Sachin Tendulkar and 179 for the second with Robin Singh, who made 82.

South Africa maintained their recent supremacy over Australia by recording a fourth successive World Series Cup round-robin victory in Perth, winning by seven wickets.

India response with a superb 124, sharing a rousing first-wicket stand of 71 in 8.2 overs with Sachin Tendulkar and 179 for the second with Robin Singh, who made 82.

South Africa maintained their recent supremacy over Australia by recording a fourth successive World Series Cup round-robin victory in Perth, winning by seven wickets.

India response with a superb 124, sharing a rousing first-wicket stand of 71 in 8.2 overs with Sachin Tendulkar and 179 for the second with Robin Singh, who made 82.

South Africa maintained their recent supremacy over Australia by recording a fourth successive World Series Cup round-robin victory in Perth, winning by seven wickets.

SPORT IN BRIEF

British return to top road racing

■ **CYCLING:** For the first time since the collapse of the ANC road racing squad in 1987, Great Britain will have a leading trade team with a full programme of road and track events abroad this year (Peter Bryan writes). Stuart Hallam, chief executive of Britte Voice, a United Kingdom subsidiary of a United States public company specialising in information systems, told *The Times* yesterday that the team will be backed by a £15 million sponsorship over the next three years.

There are 24 riders contracted, who will be split into an Elite team and a younger, development team. They include John Tanner, winner for the past two years of the Premier Calendar road race series, and Rob Hayles, a triple national track champion.

Hasan seen as threat

■ **CRICKET:** Pakistan are the first opponents for England in the super league stage of the Under-19 World Cup at Centurion Park today. A defeat would leave England with only a slight chance of qualifying for the final on February 1. Pakistan have two players of whom England must be especially wary — Hasan Raza, the world's youngest Test cricketer, and Abdul Razak, who opens the bowling. England play India in Benoni on Saturday and then travel to Cape Town to face Australia.

Holden bow out

■ **BOWLS:** Hampshire defeated Nottinghamshire, the holders of the Liberty Trophy, 111-100, at Isis, thanks mainly to a 29-13 win for the rink skipped by Julian Haine. Although Hampshire led for most of the game, their grip was tenuous until Haine's quartet scored a crucial count of six. Durham scored an emphatic 136-113 victory over Cornwall, while Leicestershire defeated Essex 121-109, and Hertfordshire had a surprise 127-95 win over Wiltshire.

Ainslie out of sight

■ **SAILING:** Ben Ainslie, right, of Great Britain, secured an impressive win in the Laser class at the Sail Melbourne 98 regatta, scoring three first places and three seconds to take the title from a 55-strong field with a race to spare (Edward Gorman writes). Ainslie is preparing for the ISAF world championships in Dubai in March.



Brown across first

■ **ATHLETICS:** Jonathan Brown, of Great Britain, won the seventeenth running of the Cross Ousey-France cross-country race in Le Mans yesterday, beating Laban Chege, of Kenya. Brown won in 32min 06sec, with Chege, the winner last year, ten seconds behind. Steve Nyamu, of Kenya, was third in 32:26. Kathy McKiernan, of Ireland, won the women's event.

Oldham start afresh

■ **HOCKEY LEAGUES:** Oldham beat Haverhill, the York amateur side, 36-14 yesterday at Boundary Park to progress to a third-round match at Widnes in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. The club was originally left out of the competition after the liquidation of Oldham Bears, but, having formed anew, was allowed back in on the basis of playing a preliminary tie.

Sweet success

■ **RALLYING:** Jean-Pierre Fontenay claimed his first Paris-Dakar title yesterday at the sixteenth attempt. The Frenchman's Mitsubishi arrived in Senegal in an overall time of 63hr 25min 58sec, nearly two hours ahead of Kenjiro Shinozuka, of Japan, the winner last year. There was also French success in the motorbike category, with Stephane Peterhansel securing a record sixth title.

Austrian triumph

■ **SKIING:** Renate Götschl, right, achieved the first World Cup victory by an Austrian woman in more than a year yesterday. Götschl won the downhill event in the morning on a busy day at Zauchensee, Austria, while Martina Ertl, of Germany, triumphed in a super-giant slalom at the same venue three hours later.



Olsson back on track

■ **BOBSLEIGH:** Sean Olsson, of Great Britain, put his Winter Olympics campaign back on track by finishing sixth at the four-man bobsleigh World Cup in Austria yesterday. "This race has given me the confidence I needed to approach the Olympics," Olsson said.

German swansong

■ **FOOTBALL:** Jürgen Klinsmann announced yesterday that he would be retiring after the World Cup in France this summer. The 33-year-old German captain, who is in his second spell with Tottenham Hotspur, ruled himself out of taking any part in the 2000 European championship.

Are you paying too much for your pension? Our charges are incredibly low — from just 0.5% — and we won't make any further charges. This means more of your money goes directly into your pension fund.

And our performance record is strong. So whether you are concerned that this could be your last chance to claim higher-rate tax relief or you're simply looking for one of the best-value pensions on the market, talk to us.

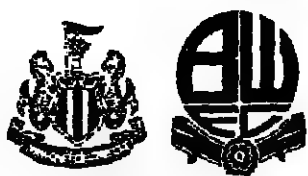
EAGLE STAR

Call **0800 77 66 66** for pensions with really low charges
24 hours a day, 7 days a week or contact your independent Financial Adviser

*Unlimited offer. The minimum investment is £5000 or £20,000 single premium, five year minimum term. This applies to all qualifying PPPs started before 05/04/96. Eagle Star Life Assurance Company Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. We only give advice on our own products. For your protection your call to Eagle Star may be recorded. Full written details, including qualifying levels, are available on request. Advice is based on our understanding of current law and inland Revenue practice, both of which may change in the future. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of the plan can fluctuate from time to time and is not guaranteed.

FA Carling Premiership: Pedestrian Newcastle grateful for touch of class

Shearer offers glimpse of what might be



NEWCASTLE UNITED 2
BOLTON WANDERERS 1

By Keith Pike

HE WAS permitted 19 minutes and enjoyed ten touches of the ball, which was as many as it was taking some of his merely mortal colleagues to bring it under control. The fifth of them might even have proved the match-winner, his goal-bound header rebounding off a defender, but, as Alan Shearer admitted: "I think that would have been asking too much." There is, after all, only so much ecstasy one player can provide and 35,000 supporters can take.

Shearer's last touch coincided with the final whistle, which brought Newcastle United a victory they emphatically did not deserve after a performance that underlined just how far his team has fallen, with and without him. This is a side that has swapped fluency for fudge, devilment for dross and acclaim for disdain in the 12 months since Kevin Keegan's departure.

All that, though, was rendered temporarily and conveniently irrelevant by touch No 9, the king of English No 9s, a header back across goal from beyond the far post. Pistone had crossed from the left and, once Shearer had done his bit and once Todd and Branagan had collided under pressure from Peacock, Ketsbasia pounced to punish Bolton Wanderers with the match already in stoppage time. But it was Shearer's header, albeit a simple skill routinely accomplished, that was about to knock Penn's Ear off the back pages.

St James' Park erupted, and if Ketsbasia's celebrations were bizarre — the ritual removal of the shirt was followed by an unprovoked assault on a perfectly innocent advertising board — there was no doubt what the moment



Shearer's fifth touch, a goal-bound header, almost made it a perfect return for the Newcastle United and England No 9. Photograph: John Giles

had meant to Newcastle, of course, but also to the nation.

For those in the Magpies' colours the issue was black and white: 251 days after his last goal, 173 since an awkward fall in a pre-season tournament had left him with a broken ankle and ruptured ligaments, the local lad who had cost the club £15 million to make good was back, and an FA Carling Premiership match had been won for the first time in nine attempts.

How many thousands of others, though, at grounds around the country, had half an ear on news of Shearer's return? For England supporters, it was the 144 days to the start of the World Cup that mattered.

An hour after the last of the delirious Toon Army had departed the stadium, Shearer was showered and seated and explaining, in that matter-of-fact and occasionally irritatingly understated manner, what the day had meant. He was "obviously delighted to be back" (obviously), but "more importantly we got the result everyone wanted" (predictably). He could report "no reaction" to the injury (happily) and had been "chewing to get on" once Kenny Dalglish had put him on the substitutes' bench (a decision Shearer "totally agreed with", of course). So far, so bland.

Still wearing the deadpan expression that Dalglish, his manager, has perfected, the country's premier footballer went on to say that he did not think he would start the match against Liverpool tomorrow — "the lads have done well without me [oh, really?], so that will be for the manager to decide," — and all but ruled out a return to England duty against Chile in February. "It has never been in my plan to be involved in that one," he said.

But then, ever so slightly, the mask slipped as he summoned some of the animation and passion that characterises his play and endears him to many. "A lot of people have put in a hell of a lot of work with me in the past six months and a few people have had to put up with me," he said. "It has been hard work and a difficult time for me, a lot worse than my cruciate injury, when I was out for six months at Blackburn."

"It has been difficult because we [Newcastle] have not had the greatest of times here in the last couple of months. But we are big enough and strong enough to cope with what is thrown at us, and there has been a lot of rubbish thrown at us from people who should be supporting us and from people that should know better. But we're above that and we'll get by. We'll be all right."

And they probably will. But it is not spite nor media muck-raking that have prompted the countless letters to local newspapers and calls to phone-ins in the North East condemning Dalglish's team and tactics, and injuries are only so much of an excuse. The simple truth is that Newcastle are at present playing some of the most

Newcastle went to great lengths to make Bolton look like world-beaters

pedestrian and muddled football in the Premiership.

In between Barnes giving them a sixth-minute lead on Saturday and Shearer rising to the occasion, Newcastle went to great lengths to make Bolton look world-beaters. It is expected that scurrillers such as Barton and Desford will occasionally be betrayed by lack of technique, but when the likes of Barnes and Lee, who trade on a sure first touch and the ability to complete a ten-yard pass, are continually giving away possession, when Peacock could be turned so easily for Blake's 71st-minute equaliser, when hit-and-hope becomes the principal method of attack, is it any wonder that supporters of a team that so recently captivated the country are disillusioned?

NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-4-3): S. Shearer — S. Watt, D. Peacock, S. Forster — W. Barton, R. Lee, J. Shearer, A. Pistone — J. T. Morrison, R. Gillespie — J. Barnes (sub: A. Shearer, 71 min).
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K. Branagan — N. Cox, A. Todd, M. J. Phillips — P. Hendon, S. Selles, P. Beardsley, P. Beardsley, R. Taylor (sub: A. Cunningham, 85 min).
Referee: G. Poll.

Graham has still to live up to golden era

STROLLING in to Elland Road shortly before kick-off, a nostalgic voice, glancing up at the East Stand, said: "So much has changed here, even from last season, but it's still not what it was. I remember coming here in the early Seventies and it used to send a shiver up your spine, watching that team."

By the main gates, newspaper sellers were busy, the front page announcing that the club was to honour the memory of Billy Bremner with a statue, depicting him in typical pose, outside the ground. Inside it, a man with a microphone was eulogising Eddie Gray, leading the players through their warm-up, before announcing the great winger's fiftieth birthday. Cue the warmest applause.

You did not have to look hard on Saturday to see that the legend of that team lives on, a cherished curse to every XI to have worn the colours of Leeds United since. The golden age is ingrained in the club, its colours everything — and everything suffers in comparison. "I wonder how Revie's side would have dealt with this current lot," the nostalgic voice said. He did not have to wonder very hard.

That Leeds would not have lost on Saturday. That Leeds would have figured out a Sheffield Wednesday weakness, punished it and won at a canter. This Leeds could have won, should have drawn but instead paid a fair price for its defensive mistakes.

George Graham, the latest manager to take up Don Revie's baton, was less than crestfallen, but then he recognises this is far from the finished article. "There are ten clubs, below the top one or two, who are capable of beating each



LEEDS UNITED 1
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 2

By Peter Robinson

other on any day," he said. "There is nothing to choose between them. A month ago, we were winning these games."

This from the man who built the meanest, toughest, most success-driven machine that Arsenal had seen since the Thirties, not a man to be satisfied as one of ten quite good also-rans. So Rod Wallace won't sign a new contract? Fine, you're on the transfer list. Leave. We'll get a better replacement.

None of this should detract from Wednesday's victory. They played with all the attacking brio you would expect from a team managed by Ron Atkinson and if they were lucky to take three points rather than one, well, their daring deserved it. Both provided the kind of big target man Leeds so obviously lacked and, appropriately, he was the matchwinner, involved in Newsome's poked opening goal and then half-volleying the second himself from Norman Cross, his marker nowhere.

Leeds's response, sandwiched between the Wednesday efforts, at least augured well for the future. Kewell's pace and left-footed skill exposed Wednesday as he broke to the byline and when his cross brushed a post, a largely helpless Penbridge turned the ball into his own net. Kewell, at 19, is a burgeoning talent and is going nowhere. Graham's team, when it finally slots into place, will be built around the likes of him.

LEEDS UNITED (3-4-3): M. Beasley — A. Morris, T. Smith, G. Morris, R. H. Jones — P. Hendon, G. Morris, S. Selles — P. Beardsley, R. Taylor (sub: A. Cunningham, 85 min).
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): V. Robinson — N. Cross, D. Morrison, G. Morris, R. H. Jones — P. Hendon, G. Morris, S. Selles — P. Beardsley, R. Taylor (sub: A. Cunningham, 85 min).
Referee: M. Boden.

About makes the difference when on and off the field

WHAT would have happened if Samassi Abou had not kicked out at Ramon Vega in the 41st minute, when the ball had gone, and been sent off in consequence? It is most unlikely that Tottenham Hotspur would have hung on to the lead established for them by Jürgen Klinsmann after seven minutes, his first goal for the club since his return.

West Ham United, as Christian Gross, Tottenham's Swiss manager, admitted, had dominated the last 20 minutes of the first half. About, the little Ivory Coast striker with the dancing feet, was frequently and cheekily taking the ball up to the lefty Sol Campbell, and leaving him stranded. Tottenham's reserve goalkeeper, the Norwegian Espen Baardsen, had had to make three notable saves, an equaliser seemed imminent.

"If you kick somebody, you've got to go," Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, conceded. "That's the rules of the game." But he had hard words for Vega, the victim, and mollified ones for Abou: "Abou got hit and he reacted, and Vega did get a bit of a kick, and the fellow went down as if he'd been shot."

Abou was hugely reluctant to depart. Redknapp, in the end, had to take the field to see that he did, and, with support from John Harrison, his big centre forward, clashed with Colin Calderwood, of Tottenham, in the process.

Redknapp said of Abou: "Doesn't speak a word of English. I don't speak French. He was arguing with the ref, and I wanted to get him off the pitch. He's a smashing lad, he plays football with a smile on his face. Let's be honest, for 20 minutes, he was running them ragged and he was taking some shit."

Klinsmann's decisive goal was scored with a flash of his former opportunity. Clive Wilson retrieved a ball out on the left and David Ginola, whom Gross had risked playing, although he



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 1
WEST HAM UNITED 0

By Brian Glanville

was not fully fit. The lively Frenchman crossed and Klinsmann was in like lightning at the near post to glance the ball home.

Gross said that he was pleased with Klinsmann. Ginola and Nicola Bertl, his most recent signing, Klinsmann certainly showed sporadic moments of skillful sophistication, but the Klinsmann of earlier Tottenham days would surely have scored when, clean through four minutes from the end, he allowed Pearce to nudge him off the ball.

By the same token, Bertl, earlier, looked set to score when Klinsmann sent him through, only for him to let the ball run ineptly



Klinsmann's first goal since return to Tottenham colours

out of reach. "Bertl needs another two weeks, I think," Gross said, and one hopes he is right. On this occasion, the Italian too often played balls forward, then made no attempt to follow.

Tottenham's initial brio gradually petered out against West Ham's steady resistance, with John Moncur impressively busy in midfield, Berkovic cool and probing. About the joker in the pack. The latter's sending off, Gross admitted, "helped us because he was really a great danger to us."

Harrison wasted a good early chance made for him by Abou. Moncur, set up by Abou and Berkovic, had a shot blocked by Baardsen. Lazaridis, intercepting the ball, roared on for a shot which Baardsen saved at full length. The goalkeeper did still better to tip over Lampard's fierce free kick.

Even in the last dozen minutes, with Tottenham now well on top, Baardsen had to divert Lampard's low shot and turn over a rocket from Unsworth.

Forrest, in the other goal, inevitably had plenty to do in the second half, saving a near-post shot by Fox, a header by Campbell, a first-time drive by Ginola. There was also a close escape when Dominguez, on as substitute for Ginola, who had given his all, crossed from the right and Sinton, arriving from the left, headed past the far post.

With Dowie on as a second striker and the equaliser to strive for, West Ham's ten men lived dangerously at times in the second half, but went unpunished. These points were invaluable to Tottenham, who brought in Campbell, a first-time drive by Ginola. There was also a close escape when Dominguez, on as substitute for Ginola, who had given his all, crossed from the right and Sinton, arriving from the left, headed past the far post.

Wimbledon crosses all come to nought

TO JOE Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, this match was "a nil-nil massacre". Jim Smith, his Derby County counterpart, called it "two points lost". To any neutrals among the 13,031 crowd, most of it was a reasonable argument for staying at home with a good book — or even a bad one.

To deal with Smith's claims first. In the first half, Neil Sullivan, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, had to turn aside low shots from distance by Baiano and Hunt, and Rowett hit the ball past a post from Wanchope's cross. After the break, Burton volleyed horribly wide and Perry shouldered Wanchope off a good chance created by Baiano's long diagonal pass.

"We felt at half-time that we'd wasted opportunities to put it beyond them," Smith said. "The team faded; we didn't play as many balls of quality as we did in the first half." Not surprising, he suggested, given that his first-choice midfield were all suspended.

Kinnear's claims were slightly stronger. Michael Hughes was lively, twice forcing full-stretch saves from Poom in the Derby goal, and Neal Ardley and Kenny Cunningham worked tirelessly to serve a toothless attack.

The closest Wimbledon came to a goal was when Cunningham curled in his unpenetrable cross of the afternoon, in the 36th minute, from Poom's punch, the ball rebounded off Earle towards the unguarded net, only for Willem to kick clear.

"We tortured them," Kinnear said. "The build-up was great, getting a million-and-one crosses into the box, but nothing on the end of it. Unfortunately, I hang on a minute. Hadn't he just acquired a new centre-forward, Carl Leaburn,

from Charlton Athletic? Where was he, then? "I bought him to hold the ball, and I thought he did well," Kinnear said. "Nothing broke down off him, he gave us time for Michael Hughes to get up in support, we just needed a second striker to be on the end of things. That's all we've been lacking." Wait until Jason Euell or Enzo Ekeku are fit again, in other words.

Kinnear thought Derby had not looked like a team nine points better off than his own, while Smith also offered only qualified praise for the opposition. "They put so many balls in the box, they've got so many big guys, and they play such a sophisticated game," he said. Such biting irony was, perhaps, in keeping with an afternoon on which the pinnacle of individual skill came from one Vinnie Jones, killing a high clearance expertly on his instep before playing a perfectly weighted pass down the line to a colleague.

A visiting alien might have been tempted to think such a player was wasted man-marking Francesco Baiano. But don't worry — Vinnie also had the game's last word, blasting a clearance his own high and away. That was more like it: an appropriate end to a poor match.

WIMBLEDON (4-1-3-2): N. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, C. Perry, D. Blackwell, A. Kinnear — V. Jones, M. Hughes, R. Ekeku, M. Hughes — C. Leaburn, M. Gayle (sub: C. Carr, 70 min).

DERBY COUNTY (2-4-1-2): M. Poom — D. Yates, I. Smith, J. Lynam — G. Poom, J. Hunt, R. Williams, C. Poom — F. Baiano — P. Wanchope, D. Burton.

Referee: P. Jones.

FREE £10 BET

FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking £25 or more using Switch, Delta or Solo bank or building society debit cards.

RING TODAY 0800 44 40 40

*Free bet is a £10 Correct Score bet on tonight's Southampton v Man. Utd. match. (Please place your bet and make your free bet selection within the same call.)

William Hill

PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION WILLIAM HILL FOOTBALL RULES APPLY TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0800 285 052.

TONIGHT'S 'LIVE' PREMIER ACTION

7/2 SOUTHAMPTON 12/5 DRAW MAN. UTD. 4/6

The Bet, Kick-off 8.00pm, Live on Sky

CORRECT SCORE	DOUBLE RESULT	FIRST GOALSCORER
9/1 SOUTHAMPTON TO WIN	9/1 SOUTHAMPTON TO WIN	6/1 SHERINGHAM (N)
20/1 2-0	9/1 SOUTHAMPTON TO WIN	7/1 DAVES (S)
16/1 2-1	9/1 SOUTHAMPTON TO WIN	8/1 OSTENDAD (S)
50/1 3-0	9/1 SOUTHAMPTON TO WIN	11/1 BLOOMING (M)
40/1 3-1	9/1 SOUTHAMPTON TO WIN	12/1 GIGGS (M)
33/1 3-2	9/1 SOUTHAMPTON TO WIN	12/1 WILLIAMS (S)
17/2 0-0	9/1 SOUTHAMPTON TO WIN	16/1 BUTT (M)
6/1 1-1	9/1 SOUTHAMPTON TO WIN	17/2 NO GOALSCORER
14/1 2-2	9/1 SOUTHAMPTON TO WIN	

Other scores on request. Bet void if match not completed. Own goals do not count.

LATEST ODDS ON WILLIAM HILL TV TEXT • Teletext on CH4 601/602/603

Rob Hughes

The small matter of nine goals conceded on their last two FA Carling Premiership visits to the Dell will concentrate minds in the Manchester United dressing-room before tonight's game.

Southampton, unbeaten in five league games, are becoming combative, to say the least. "At home, we fancy our chances against anybody," Carlton Palmer, whose battle against Nicky Butt in midfield will not be for the faint-

SOUTHAMPTON

MANCHESTER UNITED

Tonight, 8.0

sent off during United's 6-3 beating last year.

United might opt for Johnsen in midfield instead of Scholes, and Southampton could leave out Ostenstad, despite his hat-trick in last season's fixture.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-1-3-2): P. Jones — J. Dodd, K. Morrison, C. Leaburn, F. Smith — C. Palmer, R. Richardson, M. Gayle — M. Hughes, M. Hughes, M. Hughes — C. Carr, 70 min.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P. Scholes — D. Blackwell, A. Kinnear — V. Jones, M. Hughes, R. Ekeku, M. Hughes — C. Leaburn, M. Gayle (sub: C. Carr, 70 min).

Referee: P. Jones.

TELEVISION: Live on Sky Sports from 7pm.

PREDICTION: Even Stat says it's unpredictable; a draw is the safe option.

FA Carling Premiership: Midlands pair suffering self-inflicted managerial strife

Rovers run riot as woeful Villa fan flames of discontent

ROY HODGSON, who is committing an act of gross decency at Blackburn by turning the Rovers back into a decent team, cuts an unusual figure in the insular world of English football. He reads books. In particular, he admires Milan Kundera, the Paris-based Czech, one of whose novels supplies a handy subtitle to this route: *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*.

The laughter belonged to the Blackburn supporters, who were rolling in the aisles by the end of this pleasant winter warmer, tickled by Villa's many kindnesses: the forgetting was of the fact that Blackburn had won 4-0 in Birmingham in the first week of the season, when Chris Sutton bagged a hat-trick, the Villa manager led his players into a bloody ambush at Ewood Park.

On this occasion it was Sutton's partner, Kevin Gallacher, who helped himself to three goals, and the Villa supporters will not be forgetting the disgrace of their side's performance. Any temptation to elevate "the fans" into tribunes of the people should be resisted, but on Saturday they were entitled to have their say.

Little offered no excuses, though he did excuse himself. Having blundered through a fog of gobble-degook (what precisely does "well second" mean in plain English?), he left the questions that followed to vapourise in the Lancashire air. Either he did not trust himself to say what he really thought, or he had been instructed not to.

A collection of Little's public utterances would not make much of a book; in fact, it would hardly run to a page. In victory or defeat he wears the long face of a man who wonders where his porridge has gone, so it would have been no great hardship to forgo his post-match observations though, in future, if he is going to behave like that, it might be better not to turn up in the first place. Such behaviour makes him look small.

What he might say privately, if he values truth above diplomacy, is that his team's performance was unacceptable. Neither in defence nor in midfield, and certainly not in attack, did they measure up to the standards expected of senior professionals. Worse, one or two of them played without heart, and that is a sackable offence, or should be.



BLACKBURN ROVERS 5
ASTON VILLA 0

By Michael Henderson

The incompetence was total. In the last minute, when Milosevic, standing six yards from an unguarded goal, booted an invisible ball instead of the one that Taylor rolled across to him, a knot of Villa followers rushed to the perimeter fence to shout at the striker, who appeared to repay them in words no less harsh.

Seconds later, when the match ended, the Serb raced up the tunnel in his one decisive act of the day. If that was funny, what followed was sheer joy. Collymore, who had accomplished as little, turned in a reflexive gesture to applaud supporters who had just informed him and his colleagues, loudly and repeatedly, that they were unfit to wear the shirts.

What a pity! Some of these footballers actually think that all will be well in their cosy little world so long as they give the impression of "caring". If Collymore really cared about his performance, it would show in his play. Here he was, damned in the worst possible way, by his own hand. If Little does not know by now that he has dropped the most mighty brick by sinking £7 million into this cesspit vessel, some kind soul ought to put him right. At the moment, as a team-mate put it recently, he's stinking the place out.

Blackburn, by contrast, are a happy, confident team again and have found themselves after a difficult two years. Sherwood, Sutton and Gallacher were outstanding in this latest victory, which brought two goals before half-time and three more in a rousing second period, when they could have run in another four.

Sherwood, who ran Villa into the ground and sustained his effort for 90 minutes, scored the first goal and made the second for Gallacher with a lovely touch. Gallacher completed his hat-trick with smartly taken goals, one a shot, the other a header, before Ripley's volley gave the scoreline a satisfactory ring.

Hodgson deserves much of the praise for reshaping a team that was starting to look tired and the players should also be commended for taking the pains to reinvent themselves. Sutton, though he did not score, had an especially fine game at centre forward, frequently dropping deep to find the ball and usually putting it to good use.

To improve their team they could do with a ball-player in the middle of the field, where Fittroft tends to replicate Sherwood's work, without the same intensity. Duff, frisky as a puppy along the left wing, clearly has a future and Gallacher's goals — 16 this season — are helping him to roll back the years. It is looking good for Rovers. If they cannot win the league — and they cannot — they can have a fair old bash at the FA Cup.

"Don't be too harsh on Brian," Hodgson said charitably. "He's had a bad day, that's all." If only it was that simple. People who have had days in autocratic regimes are removed and then officially cease to exist, as Kundera described in his book. Villa Park is one man's fiefdom, and that man is not Little. Don't let that porridge go cold, Brian.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T. Flowers — J. Jones, G. Sherwood, C. Hendry, J. Wright — P. Ripley, T. Sherwood, G. Fittroft, G. Galt, G. Taylor, D. Duff — C. Sutton, K. Gallacher (sub: W. McKinlay, 78).

ASTON VILLA (5-3-1-1): M. Beatty — F. Milne, D. Beagrie, S. Thornton, S. Grayson, A. Wright — M. Draper, J. Taylor — D. Yates — S. Collymore, S. Little.

Referee: K. Bagnall



The fate of Williams, left, is sealed as the referee reaches for his red card at Highfield Road. Photograph: Peter Luckhurst

Strachan risking credibility and FA wrath by lodging hasty complaint

AT THE start of the season, John Barnwell, the chief executive of the League Managers' Association, issued a directive under the title "Take time to think before you speak". Barnwell wrote: "Comments regarding referees don't change yesterday's result nor do they influence the decisions of next week's referee. All that happens is that we lose stature and the FA's funds grow larger."

Gordon Strachan, the Coventry City manager, either did not receive the letter or has long since forgotten the sage words. He continues to question the competence of referees on an almost routine basis and is closing on Joe Kinsey, the Wimbledon manager, as the most vociferous anti-official figure in the FA Carling Premiership. He appears on the verge of paranoia; it is not a pretty sight.

Strachan was at it again on Saturday, after a rousing draw that included four goals, numerous near-misses, five bookings and two dismissals. But for the firm and fair handling of Steve Lodge, the referee, anarchy could have broken out, particularly in a viciously contested and wildly fluctuating second half.

Yet it did not impress Strachan. "The ref was an absolute joke," he said. "We work morning, noon

and night to get things right, but this club gets nothing from refs." He suggested that his disagreement with David Elzler, England's senior referee, during the away match against Derby County in November had somehow influenced the judgment of officials in Coventry's subsequent matches. "The ref today was an absolute disgrace and if the FA want to come after me, they can," he said.

Strachan vented his anger on radio and television, too, in a self-deluding tirade. "We are aware of the comments made," an FA spokesman said yesterday, in anticipation, perhaps, of a future contribution to the Lancaster Gate culvers.

Such hasty, ill-considered remarks hardly enhance Strachan's growing reputation as a manager who, in all probability, will steer Coventry away from their annual scramble to avoid relegation. His passion is admirable yet he should more frequently engage Mr Brain

entry were thus restricted to one goal — Whelan's prod-in from Solovet's pass.

Novice defending allowed Arsenal to poach a 2-1 lead, with Bergkamp seizing on Williams's misplaced header and Anelka latching on to Hedman's fumble. Parity was restored when Dublin, on possibly his final appearance before negotiating a lucrative move to Middlesbrough, dispatched a 65th-minute penalty.

Coventry's frustration had little to do with Lodge, who was hardly to blame, either, for Vieira's dismissal after he had conceded the penalty by handling Telfer's free kick. Having already been booked for a foul on Huckerby, his foul-mouthed protests did his cause no good. Vieira is the ninth Arsenal

player to be sent off since Arsène Wenger arrived at Highbury 16 months ago.

More contentious was the dismissal of Williams, the Coventry defender, in the 79th minute. Williams might be a serial offender — he has been booked 11 times and sent off twice this season — but he appeared to make only the merest contact with Bergkamp as he ran through. A split-second later, Bergkamp tumbled over.

"A dive! I totally refute that," Bergkamp said indignantly. "I'm not a cheat, I'm not that kind of player." Lodge agreed that there remained an element of doubt. "From one angle, it looked as though Bergkamp was clipped; from another, it doesn't," he said. "I'll look at it again on video and make my recommendation to the FA. Then it's up to them."

He still enjoyed the game. "I expected it to be difficult but it was a real cracker," he said. "It had everything for the cameras, the players, the supporters and the referee." Too much, though, for one manager.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M. Hedman — R. Mills, G. Brown, P. Williams, D. Bunnell — J. Taylor, S. Bostrom, T. E. Solovet, N. Whelan — D. Dublin, G. Huckerby.

ARSENAL (3-5-2): D. Seaman — M. Keown (sub: G. Grimsand, 85min), S. Soult, M. Upson — L. Dixon, R. Parfitt, P. Vieira, E. Pox, N. Whitehead — N. Anelka (sub: I. Ben Mouni, 85), D. Bergkamp.

Referee: S. Lodge

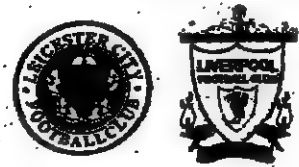
Liverpool dish up performance that leaves sour taste in mouth

ANYONE can tolerate failure. It is underachievement, the careless squandering of talent, that is so much harder to stomach, but Liverpool continue to feed their supporters a regular diet of the stuff and, on Saturday, they served up another generous helping.

That a few die-hards appear to be growing a little sick of the taste should surprise nobody. They are, though — a fact underlined by a moment in the second half when the ball flew out of play and into the visiting section of seats. It was a Liverpool throw, but a small pocket of red-shirted fans opted to hide the ball rather than give it back. In short, they did not trust their own team to look after it.

Their dismissive verdict may have seemed overly harsh, given that Roy Evans's team were on course for a draw at Filbert Street — a result most would settle for against Martin O'Neill's willing workers — to add to the run of five successive league victories that had lifted them back into the title race. However, while it might have been a decent result, no one but the most blinkered Southerner can have travelled home believing that they had watched potential champions. If they remain so infuriatingly, maddeningly, exasperatingly devoid of conviction to a neutral, one can barely start to imagine the frustrations for those who follow Liverpool the length and breadth of England.

It was not that they played woefully, or even that poorly — not, at least, compared to their sorry performances against Swansong, Barnsley and Coventry City, say — but the plain truth is that, on paper, they have talent that should be capable of outmanoeuvring a spirited, but workmanlike, Leicester side. On grass, where they appeared to have a fraction of the home team's drive and dynamism, too often they do not. One does not doubt that they are trying, but they are just not trying hard enough if they are genuine about closing the gulf that continues to separate them from Manchester United.



LEICESTER CITY 0
LIVERPOOL 0

By Matt Dickinson

No one is struggling more than Jason McAteer. The Liverpool full back can currently be seen floundering around in a television advert for Wash and Go shampoo. It has been more a case of watch them go this season, with the Ireland international, so impressive in the months immediately after his transfer from Bolton Wanderers, exposed by a succession of wingers.

Steve Guppy was the latest beneficiary of McAteer's knack of being caught 40

yards out of position and he took full advantage by delivering a bombardment of dangerous crosses from the left flank. Try as he might, though, Marshall, toiling hard alongside the labouring Heskey, could not find his heading range.

The visitors had their moments. Fowler, who still looks short of self-belief, pulling a couple of shots wide, but it was a sterile affair and Liverpool's inability to step up the pace, despite the odd burst by McManaman, was the biggest factor.

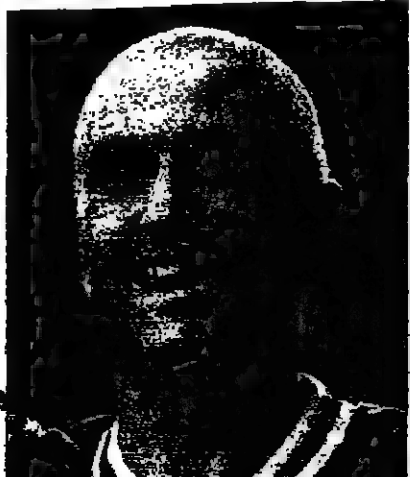
Their listlessness was put into perspective by the performance of Matt Elliott, a player even one of his own team-mates described as broad of beam and short of pace. The Scotland international has worked hard to better himself and his late arrival into the FA Carling Premiership, after what O'Neill described as 150 years at Oxford United, appears to have given him a strength of purpose that several of Liverpool's defenders will never match. He was unflappable, and one penalty box tackle on Owen was perfection.

"We should call him Baloo from *The Jungle Book* because of his big bear's backside," Kasey Keller said. "He is the total package as a defender, except maybe his pace. Put him in a back five, though, where he is not going to be exposed, and he is as good as anyone in the country. Maybe if someone had had the foresight a few years ago and seen his phenomenal qualities he would not be here but one of the biggest clubs in the country."

Like Liverpool, perhaps. He is exactly the type of defender, and competitor, that they need, but Evans, their manager, denied any interest over the weekend and O'Neill, his opposite number, dismissed the matter out of hand. His value to Leicester is inestimable.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K. Keller — P. Karmann, M. Elliott, S. Walsh — S. Guppy, M. Izuel, M. Landon, G. Pether, N. Savage — E. Heskey (sub: A. Connor, 88min), J. Marshall.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D. James — J. McAteer, P. Beah, D. Beattie, S. Harrison — S. McManaman, M. Poyet, J. Raftery, D. Lacey (sub: R. Foster, 84min, sub: P. Binger, 78), D. Carragher — R. Foster, M. Owen (sub: P. Binger, 78), D. Carragher — R. Foster, M. Owen (sub: P. Binger, 78), D. Carragher — R. Foster, M. Owen (sub: P. Binger, 78).



Elliott: vital to Leicester

Lynne Truss, page 37

Summit air proving too rarefied for ill-equipped climbing party

IT IS not often you hear Gary Glitter these days, but then, they are not squeamish in Barnsley, and a victory on the back of a 6-0 trouncing needs celebrating.

So we had *Hello Hello I'm Back Again*, naturally, at the end of this match. The man who plays the records at Oakwell thought he was being clever, with his little message, but perhaps the song title holds more significance than he thought.

It was an entertaining contest but the overriding impression after 90 minutes of pumped-up football was that both Barnsley and Crystal Palace are heading inexorably back towards the division they came from. Add to this struggling pair the labouring Bolton Wanderers, and we have a three-card trick — promoted sides who have found the demands of the FA Carling Premiership rather too exacting.

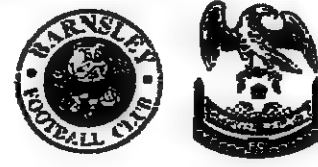
Sadly, it doesn't stop there. The three sides our trio replaced in August — Middlesbrough, Nottingham Forest and Sunderland — are the favourites for promotion from the Nationwide League.

Why should this be so? Well, a house of cards, by definition, has dodgy foundations, and the Premiership has been so busy with that little triangle at the top, that it has neglected the many at the bottom who hold it up.

"We are looking for new players, but I heard Kenny Dalglish saying today that he has pots of money, but can't find the players he wants — so what chance do we have?" Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, said afterwards.

Wilson made the point that there are fewer players able to make the step up from the lower divisions and the evidence was there on Saturday for anyone with eyes to see.

Both Barnsley and Palace play at a pace half a yard behind the top clubs in the division. At their own pace, they created a perfectly enjoyable game, with plenty of chances, but when they have to step up a gear, technique goes out of the window and they struggle.



BARNSELEY 1
CRYSTAL PALACE 0

By David Maddock

Significantly, the one player on the pitch who appeared to have sufficient class was Tomas Brolin, despite being so unfit at present, after a two-year mid-career sabbatical, that he resembled an escapee from a slaughterhouse in Wiltshire.

Fatened up or not, Brolin's assured technique came closest to giving Palace a victory their more imaginative and accomplished approach probably deserved. The Swede hit the bar in the first half, had



Brolin: assured technique

two goals ruled out for offside in the second, and created presentable opportunities for Dyer, Bent and Gordon.

But, as Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, said afterwards, there just wasn't enough quality about his side's finishing. "The implications of either side losing are obvious," he said. "After that, I would be mighty heartened if the season stopped now, with us fourth bottom. We lost because we needed better quality in the final third, some ice in our veins."

Barnsley were just as woeful in front of goal. Marcell, in particular, spurning three opportunities his granny would have accepted. Twice, at either end of the game, he allowed Miller to save at his feet, and a third time he wildly hacked wide from unmissable range.

The home side won because Ashley Ward, after 26 minutes, produced the one moment of true quality finishing in the match. Allowed to advance by a delicious through-ball from Tinkler, his deft touch and balance of a trapeze artist completely bamboozled Linighan. With the defender now behind him, and fearing the invitation for a penalty, Ward finished with a deft, dismissive flick of his left boot.

Poetry. It was prose after that, though, both sides approaching the ball as if were primed and dangerous. Barnsley, in particular, lacked finesse, but ironically, that may work in their favour. They do not have the resources to play their way out of trouble so they will have to scrap.

As Wilson testified, they are good at that. "We showed tremendous spirit after getting thrashed last week," he said. "People are asking if we are going to lie down or not, but we will never lie down." Whether they will go down is a different matter.

BARNSELEY (4-4-2): D. Watson — N. Ender, P. Marshall, C. Morgan, D. Bennett — C. Marshall, N. Redfern, D. Sheridan, E. Tinker — A. Ward, J. A. Forster (sub: A. Liddell, 88min).

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-4-1-2): K. Miller — A. Linighan (sub: R. Gray, 85), M. Edwards, H. Henderson — J. Smith, A. Roberts, J. Fullerton, D. Gordon — T. Brolin — S. Dyer, M. Bent.

Referee: M. Reed

Marcelo supplies cutting edge for Sheffield after Deane's exit



McGhee: unperturbed

By BILL EDGAR

United's simultaneous sale last Thursday of Brian Deane to Benfica

Sheffield fans were equally upset but an important win at Bramall Lane over Wolverhampton Wanderers, their in-form promotion rivals

The prodigal son's 13 goals on his return to Sheffield this season, alongside Fjortoft's second-best total

Wolverhampton had kept five successive clean sheets during a run

"We're not too worried," McGhee said. "I think it's important to lose to good teams rather than to those down at the bottom."

SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-3-1-2) A Kelly — E Bennett, D Holdsworth, D Lea, R Nissen (sub L Mome, 89in), M Marler, R Ford, G Stuart — D Saunders, P Kachouros, Macrao (sub M Beard, 89).

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-3-1-3) M Snowell — K Muskat, D Richards, K Curle, S Froggatt — M Alsing (sub C Robinson, 85), S Seodley, D Ferguson — R Keane — D Goodman, D Freeman (sub A Daley, 45).

Referee: W Gump.

By PAT GIBSON

In the event, they survived a first-half roasting and then took wing to beat Nottingham Forest, the first division leaders, through a 47th-minute goal from Iwan Roberts, the bustling Welsh striker who had scored only once before in



Gunn: outstanding



Gunn: outstanding

Forest were never quite the same again. Much of the pride and purpose that had stamped them as the best team in the division deserted them, the build-up became more hurried and they could no longer even get their shots on target. When they did, Gunn pro-

A black and white photograph of a man and a woman standing behind a car decorated for a football match. The car has "BORO" on the front, "P635 MOP" on the license plate, and "Uhl'sport" and "Evening News" on the side. A sign on the roof says "Next home match". The man is holding a newspaper.

Russell, right, and Green prepare to set off on their fundraising tour of the other 91 League clubs

By RICHARD HOBSON

O'Connor saw a goal disallowed for offside after Marsden fed McCarthy with a quick free kick in the seventh minute, and Grant Johnson turned another shot by O'Connor.

[illegible][illegible]

So much so that you wonder whether Scarborough would be having more fun back where they were. "That would be a defeatist attitude," John Russell, the Scarbor-

While most progress has been made in League position over the years, Russell points to "two lovely stands" which, he said, would not be there if the club had remained outside the Football

Rhodes gathered the ball inside his area but his momentum carried him outside. From the free kick, Lincoln equalised. Quite why Rhodes did not kick clear when rushing out towards the boundary of his box, and with Lincoln bearing down on him, is a mystery.

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

and until they start scoring again there is not a lot they can do.

BURY (4-3-3): D Kelly — N Daves, P Butler, C Luckett, L Johnson (subs: A Rigby, 55min) — Andrew Gray (sub: A Satterthay 76), M Patterson, G Armstrong — Andy Gray, P Swan, A Elie.

STOCKPORT COUNTY (4-5-2): E Nason — S Connolly, M Flynn, M McIntosh, D Smaile — T Bennett, J Gannon, P Cook (subs: S Travis 64, sub: C Byrne 85), K Cooper (sub: A Denning, 85) — B Angel, A Armstrong. —

By ISSA CRITCHLEY

In the second half Ipswich replaced a central defender, Brown, with a striker, Manthie, and the change of system appeared in backfire in the 62nd minute when a free kick by Merson found the excellent Pearson, whose head fired it into the net for his first goal in three years. But he missed the celebrations, needing attention after hitting his head.

MIDDLESBROUGH 14-20 St. Schwabert — H Middlebrook
P. Parker G. Feltz 19 Fern — C Granger & T. Townsend R.
Morton & Company also Stocked, Barn. — P. Mercer N. Berr.

RISWICK TOWN 3-50 7 Arch — A. Turner, 7 Montrose
W. Fisher also 2 Maple St. — 47 7-13 8 W. Rogers M.
Starkland M. Moore, J. Clemons — J. Johnson, J.
Sawyer.

Referer M. New

BY MEL VILBER

TONY PULIS was not a happy man. He had passed his fortieth birthday the day before, and his club celebrated by giving every spectator who wanted one a poster to brandish at the Gillingham manager on Saturday. Pulis, straight-talking fellow, if somewhat curmudgeonly, on this occasion, did not enjoy the jokey affection. And then there was the referee.

Pulis was terribly dismissive of the poster trick — "I don't go along with that sort of stuff, I'm only interested in the football," he grumbled — but on the subject of Alan Wiley, the head huncher of the three-man rule-enforcement unit, he was positively incandescent.

"It infuriates me that, because of

"No, I can't remember," he said. "but I know one of them was all right." His temporary amnesia did not prevent him from expounding further on the failings of referees and what he would do to change the situation. "We need to make refereeing a properly professional occupation."

YORK CITY (4-3-2) — A Worthington — A McMillan, B Jones, Bomas, W Hall — G Murty, S Bughold, M Tinkler.
Simpsonson (club) S Jordan, 67 — R Crescwell, R Frowe.
Relatives: A Wicks

**Hoddle left
short straw
Euro 2000**

FOOTBALL

Hoddle left with short straw in Euro 2000 draw

FROM ROB HUGHES IN GHENT

WE SHALL have cause, as the 20th century turns into the 21st, to remember this elegant Belgian city. How it poured yesterday and, with the city's beauty doused by rain, so too were Glenn Hoddle's bright expectations for the 2000 European championship turned distinctly grey.

For England, the administrators of Uefa had done their level best. The governing body of European football had granted four nations — England, Germany, Italy and Spain — special status, guaranteeing them nothing more arduous than a qualifying group of five, whereas others had to take the lottery in groups of six. That is Uefa's way of rewarding those with television pulling power and of sorting out a draw involving 49 hungry nations as the continent's family of football grows ever more demanding.

There were smiles on the faces of the Scots as they drew a group from which they can surely maintain their impressive qualifying record. From Bobby Gould, the manager of Wales, drawn to play against Italy, Denmark, Switzerland and Belarus, it was a time to be ironic and succinct. "Are you happy with that?" he was asked. "The financial men are!" he responded.

Northern Ireland, though they know not who will manage them, have gone to Germany before and proved almost equal in their stubbornness to the might of the European champions, but they also face Turkey, who can play a bit, and Finland and Moldova, who, on their home territory, are testing.

The luck of the gods does not seem to have affection for Ireland. Yugoslavia are among the more gifted of footballing teams. Croatia, with strikers such as Davor Suker and talented individuals all around, are a nation of pedigree when motivated. And

the Irish remember well that they were beaten by Macedonia, 3-2 in Skopje, a result that contributed to their narrow failure to reach the World Cup finals.

And so, to England. They missed the sunshine group, headed by Spain, they avoided the mighty challenges to come in Russia's group, containing France and Ukraine. But the draw was clearly unpleasant.

The difficulty is in the quality of the group, Hoddle said. "I don't think there are problems with the geography. It is difficult because of the talent we're going to be pitched against. Bulgaria would make any group tough, they are respected right throughout Europe. Sweden are in a transitional time, but I think they are beginning to come back up again."

Hoddle caught his breath, possibly realising that his job is not to build up opponents, and found defiance in his words. "We came through a very difficult group in the World Cup, so we have nothing to fear," he said. "It could have been an easier route, but if the luck of the draw was against us on this occasion, so be it." Poland and Luxembourg complete a daunting group. The schedule of matches must be completed within 60 days.

Hoddle was cheered by the return on Saturday of Alan Shearer for Newcastle United. "It's a massive boost," he said. "Hopefully, I'll have a fit Alan Shearer for the World Cup. We just had to hang fire because just putting on a shirt doesn't mean he's fit. We need to give him four weeks to decide that."

One month is more than the time Uefa has given two of the Belgian cities, Antwerp and Charleroi, to start work on stadium renovation: otherwise, they will be struck off the Euro 2000 list, removed from a tournament that will be co-

hosted by Holland and Belgium. It highlighted some tensions between Holland, so very progressive and professional in their organisation, and their neighbours, conservative to the point of being backward. The authorities cannot afford to forget Heysel.

Administrators themselves are becoming heated. There is politics behind the curtain and some of the Uefa executive called upon Sepp Blatter, general secretary of Fifa, either to come into the open about his reported intention to stand against Lennart Johansson for the presidency of the world governing body this summer, or to resign his post as the senior paid administrator. "I am in the ring, waiting to see who shows up," Johansson said. "I welcome competition, and if there are other candidates, I don't know them."

THE DRAW FOR EURO 2000

Belgium and Holland qualify automatically as joint-hosts for the 16-nation European championship finals in 2000. The other 49 countries are divided into nine groups, the winners of each and the best runner-up qualifying automatically for the finals. The other eight runners-up play off home and away against each other for the remaining four places.

GROUP ONE	GROUP TWO	GROUP THREE
Italy, Belarus, Wales, Switzerland, Denmark	Norway, Slovenia, Latvia, Georgia, Greece, Albania	Germany, Moldova, Northern Ireland, Finland, Turkey
GROUP FOUR	GROUP FIVE	GROUP SIX
Russia, Armenia, Iceland, Ukraine, France, Andorra	England, Luxembourg, Poland, Sweden, Bulgaria	Romania, Liechtenstein, Hungary, Slovakia, Portugal, Azerbaijan
GROUP SEVEN	GROUP EIGHT	GROUP NINE
Spain, San Marino, Cyprus, Israel, Austria	Yugoslavia, Malta, FYR Macedonia, Ireland, Croatia	Scotland, Faroe Isles, Bosnia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Estonia

Halifax cash in on distraction

Stevenage Borough 1
Halifax Town 2

By WALTER GAMMIE

IT WAS impossible to escape a pending fixture against Newcastle United at Broadhall Way on Saturday. There were announcements about the tickets that went on sale yesterday, the rising metal framework of the temporary stand, the caving of Blush, a Stevenage all-girl band singing *Loud and Proud* (an anthem composed by Andrew Green, the stadium announcer), John Kettleby casting a weather-eye over proceedings, and a host of marauding television crews.

Paul Fairclough, the manager, permitted himself a glance at the Teletext report of Shearer's return for Newcastle. His reaction was difficult to gauge. He was already shattered. Amid all the flim-flam, he was still trying to come to terms with defeat by Halifax Town in a Vauxhall Conference match of deadly earnestness.

Having stirred his side into giving a vibrant, committed performance, Fairclough had seen the league leaders snatch

victory with a last-minute header by Tony Philliskirk. Philliskirk, in his last match on loan from Cardiff City, had scored an equaliser in the 58th minute when turning in a shot that Hulme had prodded against a post.

Before the interval it had been all Stevenage. George Mulhall, the Halifax manager, said: "They played very well in the first half. They put us under real pressure, they kept turning us and caused us a lot of trouble. We could easily have been 3 or 4-0 down."

All Stevenage had to show for their superiority was a goal headed by Trott from a free kick by Love. "It's been our problem all season," Fairclough said. "Getting that second goal to put a bit of distance between us and sides." He has to squeeze another show of spirit from his team against Hereford United tonight. ... then he can let the FA Cup take over.

STEVENAGE BOROUGH (4-3-3): D. Gallagher — J. Doherty, M. Smith, R. Trott, M. Love — J. Solomon, D. Foster, S. Perkins — N. Tibble (sub: G. Dean, 68th), D. Wardlaw (sub: N. Homan, 78), G. Greenhalgh.
HALIFAX TOWN (5-3-2): L. Martin — A. Thackeray, J. Murphy, K. O'Hagan, P. Stoneman, M. Bradshaw — K. Hulme, J. Brown, J. Patterson — A. Phillips, G. Horsfield.
Referee: J. Ross

Lowly outposts beckon Scots

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

I acquaintance guaranteed affection, Scotland supporters would grow infatuated with the town of Torshavn. The draw yesterday for the qualifying competition of the European championship in 2000 once again pairs the national team with the Faroe Isles. Craig Brown's side have already met them on their path to the finals of the 1996 European championship.

Some supporters have also fitted in other trips to Torshavn over the past three years, since Raith Rovers and Rangers have both played Gota in European club competitions. For the average Scot, familiarity with the strict Faroese regulation of alcohol has produced no fondness. If they must be sent on a circuit of old haunts, supporters will be happier with yet another sortie to Tallinn.

In group nine, Scotland are to rub shoulders with Estonia, having played them already in the qualifiers for both the 1994 and 1998 World Cups. The most recent engagements include the picturesque fiasco at the Kadrioru Stadium in October 1996, when Scotland kicked off with no opponents on the field, after Estonia refused to turn up because of a dispute over floodlighting and the kick-off time.

Any attempt to suggest a lingering feud is hopeless. If the Estonians did nurse any desire for vengeance, it was assuaged when they held Brown's team to a 0-0 draw when the rescheduled game eventually took place in Monaco last year. Scotland will not be expecting grudge matches.

When the manager looked to the future, at the draw in Ghent yesterday, he must have been filled with a sense of déjà vu. But Bill Wilson, the Scottish Football Association's commercial director, will not have indulged in musings over the quirks of the draw. With the Czech Republic, Lithuania and Bosnia-Herzegovina joining Estonia and the Faroe Isles to make up the opposition, he at least is sure of defeat. There is no chance of winning large bids for the television rights to Scotland's matches.

A humdrum programme is Brown's reward for the recent consistency of performance. Scotland were among the top seeds at yesterday's draw and

were therefore deprived of the thrill, as well as the fear, of facing any of the mightiest nations.

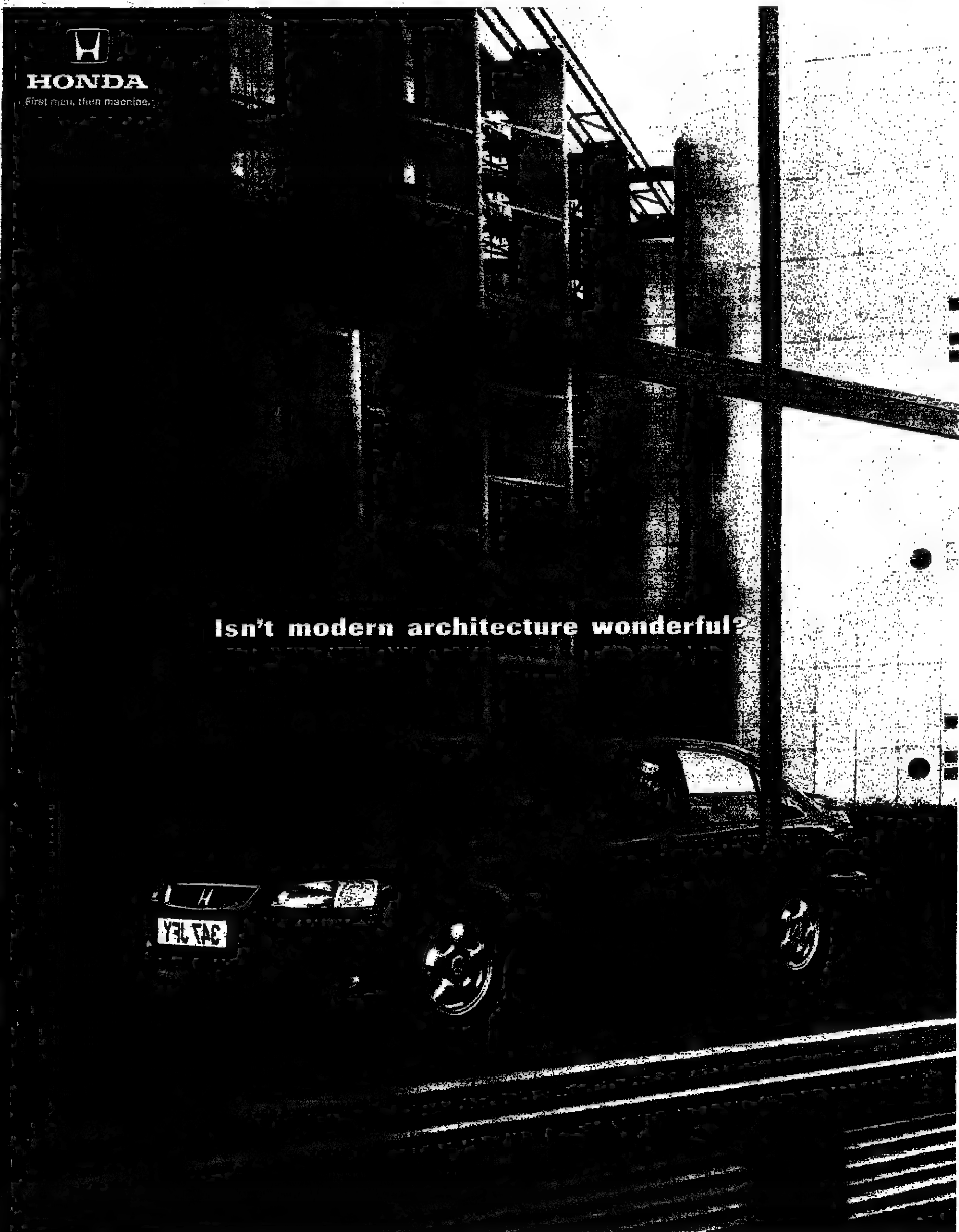
Brown, pragmatist that he is, will be jubilant to find his side in what seems to be the weakest of the groups, because his hopes are thereby strengthened of creating history by leading Scotland to the finals of a third significant tournament in succession.

While prestige is lacking, however, danger can never be wholly absent. On reflection, some may wonder, for instance, why the Czech Republic are being taken so lightly by pundits. They did reach the Euro 96 final, where they held the lead against Germany, and the failure in the qualifiers for the 1998 World Cup may simply have been a necessary pause, while a good side caught its breath.

It is impossible to be disdainful of the Czech squad. The contingent in England includes Patrik Berger, of Liverpool, and Pavel Smisek, of Newcastle United, while Karel Poborsky recently left Manchester United for Benfica. One might also consider the merits of the players in Germany, such as Pavel Kuica, at Kaiserslautern, or Jiri Nemec, of Schalke 04.

Bosnia could give a manager pause for thought as well. A team that can defeat Denmark 3-0, as they did in August of last year in a World Cup qualifier in Sarajevo, need not apologise for its presence. Lithuania are scarcely to be regarded as lowly either, given that they are to be found just one place below the capable Ukraine side in the Uefa rankings.

Scotland are entitled to be optimistic, but it would only take one false move for them to find themselves caught up in a punishing struggle in a dowdy group.



Isn't modern architecture wonderful?

The VTEC is the best looking Civic ever, especially in black. So you can forgive yourself sneaking a quick peek as you drive past a monstrous carbuncle. At its heart lies our latest 1.8i VTEC engine, which can actually change its behaviour depending on what you ask of it.

For example, at low revs, its valves open only slightly, allowing just a small amount of petrol into

the cylinders. But once you can put your foot down on the open road, the valves open wider, allowing in more petrol.

So, as you meander along, you get a car that does as much as 38.2 miles to the gallon.

But when you unleash it on the open road, you get a car that produces more power per litre than a Lamborghini Diablo SV.

The power is controlled via race-bred double-wishbone suspension, which keeps the wheels as vertical as possible, thus maximising traction and the 'feel' of the steering.

Braking is enhanced by state of the art ABS, while seat-belt pre-tensioners and twin airbags react to an impact within milliseconds.

Add both side and rear protection bars, front

and rear crumple zones, burst-proof locks and an automatic fuel cut-off and you have a car that perfectly balances power and safety features.

And the price for such thoroughness? Just £17,025 on the road.

For further information, telephone 0345 159 159. And find out why you should see yourself in a Civic. Technology you can enjoy, from Honda.

ON SHOWN IN THE CIVIC 5 DOOR VTEC 1600 ON THE ROAD PLUS £225 FOR METALLIC PAINT SHOWN. *CONSUMPTION FIGURES: URBAN CYCLE 38.2MPG/1.8L PER 100KM EXTRA URBAN 52.1MPG/1.8L PER 100KM COMBINED 32.1MPG/1.8L PER 100KM. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

Yachtsman unveils revolutionary design for sail of the century

A giant cat to conquer the world

Edward Gorman looks at a multihull that astounded a London Boat Show audience

I can't wait to sail it — we're doing it — it is happening. The small group of technical experts sat in stunned silence for a few moments, as they attempted to digest the enormity of Pete Goss's latest sailing venture. "Any questions?" Goss asked, with a half-suppressed giggle.

This was a private briefing for "technical suppliers" at the London Boat Show last week, and for most of them, it was their first chance to see the plans for what truly can be termed "the most exciting racing yacht built in this country": a 115ft catamaran, with a beam of 60ft, capable of averaging a comfortable 40 knots and knocking at least ten days off the fastest time for sailing round the world non-stop. On a number of levels Goss's new boat — the so-called *Goss Challenger* — and the extent of his ambition are amazing. First, Goss and Adrian Thompson, the designer, have come up with the biggest multihull built in Britain. Secondly, Goss and his hard-working core team, led by Mark Orr, have found the money to build it — and thirdly, this huge boat will be sailed by a crew of only five.

True to his military upbringing and his legendary determination to succeed, this is the result of a carefully laid plan, hatched before the start of the Vendée Globe last year. Goss had heard of the Frenchman Bruno Peyron's plans for The Race — an unlimited non-stop dash round the world to celebrate the millennium, starting on December 31, 2000 — and was hooked by the romance and magnitude of it.

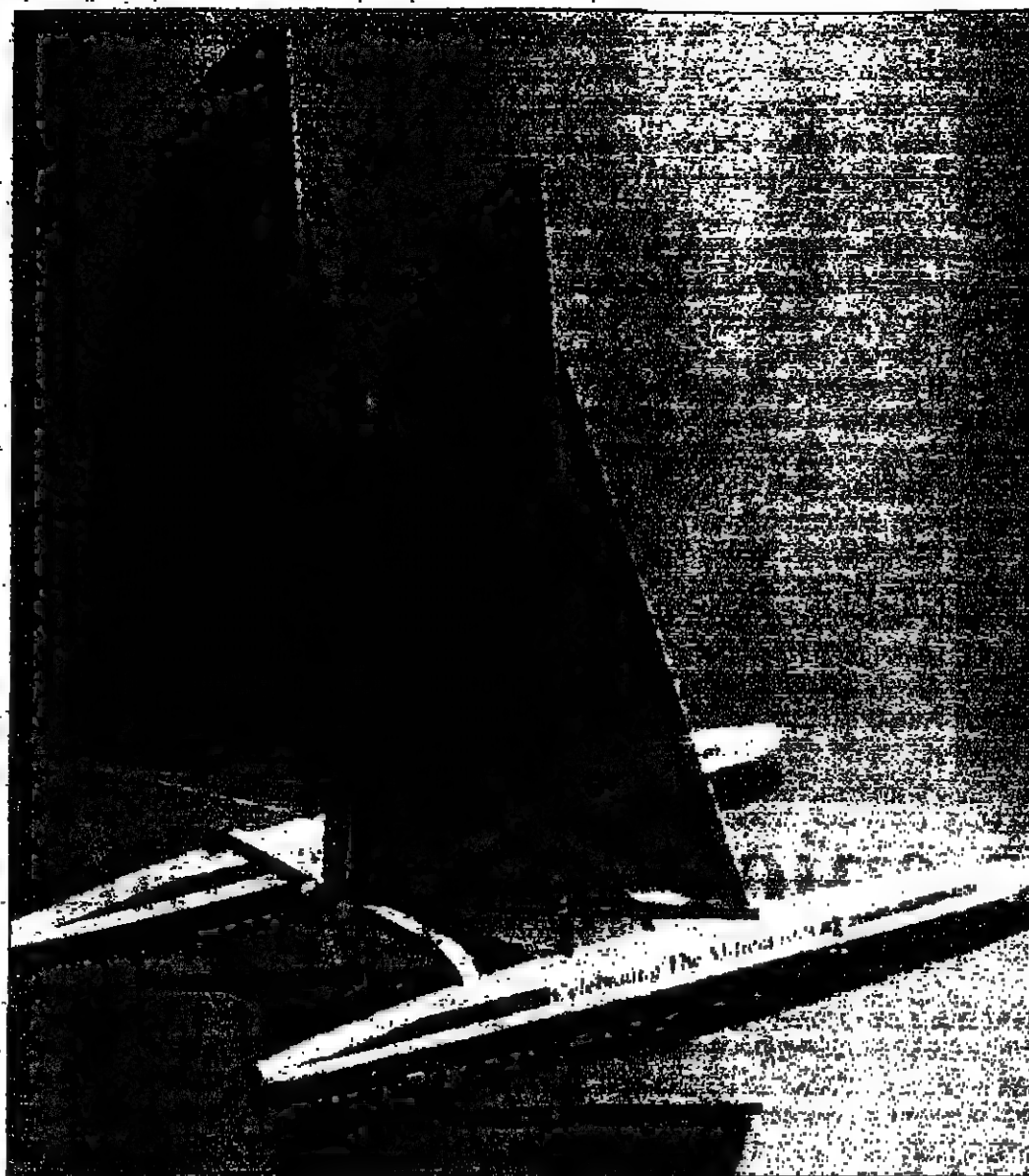
Even as he was surfing round the globe on his Thompson-de-

signed Open 50, *BMW Performance*, Goss was in constant contact with Thompson and Orr, working on the design for the big cat. Partly as a result of his rescue of the Frenchman Raphaël Dinelli, Goss emerged from the Vendée not only drowning in awards but also with an enormously enhanced reputation which has helped to transform his plans from dream to reality.

As always, the key is sponsorship. With relative ease, Goss's team have found four solid backers: BMW, BT, 3M and Sun Microsystems. Boat-building, with a budget of £2 million, will start in the West Country in March, with the catamaran ready for launching one year later. The plan is to warm up with an attempt on the Jules Verne non-stop round-the-world record before the *Goss Challenger* lines up for The Race with up to nine other yachts of unlimited scale and speed. Goss's strategy is based around minimising what he calls "downtime". He believes the danger in an unlimited class is that designers will be tempted to go for excessively large craft capable of great speed but difficult to handle, even by a large crew, and vulnerable to constant gear failure.

"You have to fight to win," said Goss. "At 40 knots, 12 hours of downtime as a result of component failure means you miss one weather system. After that, your race is effectively over."

The answer has been to aim for what Goss and Thompson believe to be the most realistic balance between safety, speed, durability and weight-saving. The boat will have two hulls and two beams, with a central accommodation pod. Instead of a relatively unman-



When completed, the £2 million, 115ft *Goss Challenger* will be capable of averaging a comfortable 40 knots and possibly crewed by just five people for The Race in 2000

ageable rig set on a huge single central mast, the *Goss Challenger* will have two smaller, identical masts supporting Carbospar-supplied AeroRigs.

The beauty of this option is that the rig is simple. The masts are not housed in the cross-beams which would pose a major structural problem at this size, and there is the option to sail on one mast if necessary. The sails will be controlled by just four main winches,

there will be no spinnakers to carry, and depowering the rig in heavy weather will be much easier than in a conventional set-up.

Thompson does not know the details of other boats being built for The Race, but he feels his design should be competitive. "We could possibly have gone for an even bigger boat," he said. "What we have tried to do is size it so we will be comfortable with the rigs we use. If we have really good

guys, the rigs are controllable because they will not be dealing with massive sails."

One potential weakness, he acknowledges, is performance in light airs. Single-masted boats could have rigs up to 90ft higher than the *Goss Challenger*, enabling them to make the best of light conditions. Goss, meanwhile, remains convinced he needs only a crew of five — a theory yet to be proved in practice.



'Goss became hooked by the romance of a race to mark the millennium'

SKIING

Austria's downhill racers battle for Olympic selection

By GRAHAM DUFFILL

THE dark clouds hanging over the Austria men's downhill team are beginning to lift after victories in the two races at Wengen, Switzerland, this weekend. Austria's mood has been downcast not by failure but by the team's astonishing run of success in dominating the downhill this season.

The problem is that in a team where any one of six men could win, only four can be chosen for the Olympic squad for Nagano, Japan, next month.

"The atmosphere is not so good because everybody wants to go to the Olympics," Patrick Ortlieb, the 1992 gold medal-winner, said. "At Bormio [where Austrians filled the first four places] there was no celebration — not one glass of champagne was drunk. Everybody had their lunch and was away."

With three downhill races to go, three places seem assured — for Hermann Maier, the discovery of the season, Andreas Schifferer and Stefan Eberharter. That

leaves the remaining place to be fought over by Werner Franz, Hans Knaus, Hannes Trinkl, Christian Mayer and even Ortlieb. It adds intrigue to the two downhill races on the feared Hahnenkamm course at Kitzbühel, Austria, next weekend and the final at Garmisch, Germany.

Maier, a 25-year-old former bricklayer, skis with a reckless abandon reminiscent of the great Franz Klammer. In only his second World Cup season he has won five races, often by margins up to 1.5 seconds, an enormous distance in downhill skiing. In 17 races he has made 14 appearances on the podium and he was also disqualified after winning the giant slalom at Val d'Isère because he took a ski off too early.

Maier took the first shortened downhill at Wengen on Friday but

Schifferer, victor at Vail and the second downhill at Bormio, ended his run of victories by taking first place in the full-length official Lauberhorn downhill the following day. It was the fifth Austrian triumph in the six downhills this season and they took five of the top six places. Eberharter finishing fifth and adding to a number of top three finishes this season.

"The team is so strong but we know only four can go to the Olympics so everyone is skiing to the limit," Ortlieb said. "Some are skiing beyond the limit and paying the price, like Pepi." The Tyrolean, Pepi Strobl, crashed at Bormio, fracturing the bone above his right eye and tearing a knee ligament, and was unfit for Wengen.

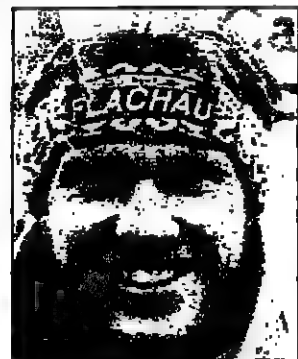
Ortlieb does not appear destined for Nagano. He is pinning his hopes on experience and strength producing victories on the difficult courses at Kitzbühel and Garmisch. At 30, the age at which Luc Alphand, of France, who dominated so many

downhills in the past two seasons, won his first World Cup, Ortlieb is far from over the hill but explains that age teaches you that when you cannot win you should not risk your life.

The short downhill in Nagano, expected to be around 1min 40sec, can produce surprises. Despite the ski federation's threats to refuse to run the Nagano downhill, unless it ran from the top of the mountain, a compromise of lowering the base by a few hundred metres has been reached.

"I think it is the best downhill in Japan with 700 metres vertical drop and some big jumps — it's just a shame we cannot start from the top," Ortlieb said.

There are lifts up there and slopes but the top is declared to be in a national park and they won't allow it.



Maier: reckless abandon

NISSAN

YOU CAN WITH A NISSAN

200 SX

BASKETBALL

During his 14 years with the club, Nike has spent, at a conservative estimate, £1.2 million. There has been little prof-

Along with John McCord and the impressive Jason Siemon, Arena was one of three Tigers on four fouls, but it was Arena who, after Waldron's exit, made the biggest impact from the backcourt. No one benefited more than McCord. He needed Tony Holley was being shaded effectively by Billy Siemon, but McCord, the game

Thames Valley Tigers on the offence during a dramatic final at Sheffield Arena

have its development of based at the school. "He n with our children, finds to work with some of t and is seen around school," the head teacher Grant's enthusiasm rubs Unlike the silver letterin his car.

RAOUL

Results and table, page 39

Driver, schoolboy cricketer of the year, has ambitions to match his high promise

Results and table, page 39

[illegible]

Answers on page 46

Solution on page 46

Elegantly negotiating a slippery business

Never let it be said that those involved with the European ice skating championships had not used their imagination. The organisers in Milan, for instance, in a desperate attempt to cheer up the bit where the skaters have to hang around waiting for their marks, gave them a gilt and velvet sofa to sit on, flanked by two solemn-looking women in medieval garb with what appeared to be lampshades on their heads.

However, the Italian director for RAI, the host broadcaster that provided pictures for both Eurosport and BBC2 last week, had come up with an image that more convincingly captured the agony and tragedy that is modern ice-skating. Crowd used to throw flowers

on to the ice only after particularly good performances. Now they throw all sorts of things at absolutely everybody — which is a God-send for a director tiring of replays of wobbly double salchows. After particularly bad performances, he could call for a close-up of a lonely biscoff that had been tossed on to the ice or, better still, the sad-looking teddy-bear whose undignified pose echoed that so recently adopted by the skater. We saw an awful lot of bad performances on Saturday afternoon and an awful lot of teddies. So many that I began to suspect a put-up job. "Ere, Giancarlo, she's fallen over again — get ze teddy ready."

Eventually, the women's title was won by the only competitor not to let the occasion (or indeed all that slippery ice) get to her. "At last we've got something to shout about," Chris Howarth shouted on Eurosport, which, with Grandstand, favoured live basketball, had live coverage — as it had all week — to itself. I cheered loudly, too, partly because after watching more ice-skating than can be good for anyone, I know that jumping from fifth to first does not happen very often and partly because Maria Butyrskaya was 25 and normal shaped.

Kati Winkler, the German ice-dancer, is also normal shaped, but it was how she chose to show off that shape that caused consternation on Friday evening. Partnered by the apparently conventionally

competitor not to let the occasion (or indeed all that slippery ice) get to her. "At last we've got something to shout about," Chris Howarth shouted on Eurosport, which, with Grandstand, favoured live basketball, had live coverage — as it had all week — to itself. I cheered loudly, too, partly because after watching more ice-skating than can be good for anyone, I know that jumping from fifth to first does not happen very often and partly because Maria Butyrskaya was 25 and normal shaped.

competitor not to let the occasion (or indeed all that slippery ice) get to her. "At last we've got something to shout about," Chris Howarth shouted on Eurosport, which, with Grandstand, favoured live basketball, had live coverage — as it had all week — to itself. I cheered loudly, too, partly because after watching more ice-skating than can be good for anyone, I know that jumping from fifth to first does not happen very often and partly because Maria Butyrskaya was 25 and normal shaped.

competitor not to let the occasion (or indeed all that slippery ice) get to her. "At last we've got something to shout about," Chris Howarth shouted on Eurosport, which, with Grandstand, favoured live basketball, had live coverage — as it had all week — to itself. I cheered loudly, too, partly because after watching more ice-skating than can be good for anyone, I know that jumping from fifth to first does not happen very often and partly because Maria Butyrskaya was 25 and normal shaped.



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

clad Rene Lohse, she whooshed onto the ice wearing a black, see-through, baby-doll nightie. It takes a lot to silence the enjoyably relaxed but well informed Eurosport commentators of Howarth and Nicky Slater, the former British ice-dancing champion, but this outfit — despite the flesh-coloured, modestly-preserving body-stocking beneath — did. Only when their free programme finished did Slater

break the silence. "Just one thing worrying me..." he began. Those of us who remembered the trouble that Katarina Witt got into for exposing too much bottom thought we knew what was coming, but we were wrong. "...if you look very carefully you can actually see through his trousers and there is a rule that says appropriate clothing must be worn at all times."

Slater has proved a good signing for Eurosport, willing to use his expert knowledge when he needs to but not afraid to say what most of us are thinking when the occasion merits it. "I think some of the positions that skaters get into doing these lifts," he began as yet another couple tied themselves in the sort of knot you'd pay an awful lot of money to see elsewhere, "can get a little ungainly."

Similarly, he was far from impressed by the male Armenian skater whose unorthodox grip on his partner was captured in painful slow motion. "I think she should have given him a good slap there."

You need only to sit through the lower reaches of a couple of ice-skating competitions to realise why the BBC decided that highlights were the preferred approach, scheduling programmes both early in the evening, to catch up with the afternoon sessions, and late night, to cover the evening.

Leicester City and Liverpool serve up novel twist to football's familiar plot at Filbert Street

Hungering for more of Oliver's thin army

What no one ever tells you about the Filbert Street stadium is that it's in a neighbourhood of South Leicester inhabited by other streets named after the almond, the brazil and the walnut. A stranger to the city, I was very struck by this pleasant contrivance and roamed the area before the match, trying to spot "Cashew Lane" or "Pecan Place". Filbert Street? Well, goodness me, all is explained. With all due deference to Charlie's Aunt, Filbert Street is where the nuts come from.

LYNNE TRUSS



The mascot of Leicester City has been the nut for 80 years, so I suppose it's a bit late to suggest the change. But what is a shame to ignore the nutty connotations so plentifully on offer. For on Saturday, against Liverpool, Leicester were impressively tough and uncrackable as they held their ambitions opponents to a 0-0 draw. Nothing would break them, those tough nuts. Yes, as optimistic Barnsley fans (almost) chant, it was just like watching brazils.

Liverpool gamely emulated the tradition at Christmas, applying the masculine nutcracker with a will. "Ha ha, quite easy when you know how!" But it wasn't funny really, seeing them fall. Huff, puff, strain. "Oo, come here, you little beggar." And then finally plying down the apparatus. "Well, I don't know about you, but I'd much rather have a tangerine at day."

I had gone along expecting something different from such nutty stuff. I'd expected some stunning football. Liverpool were on a famous old of success — five league matches won in a row. Scanning a masterful table called the "Carling Opta Run-Down" (which awards success ratings to individual Premiership players), I found that Liverpool's performances were rocketing, with Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler third and fourth in the strikers'



Liverpool's highly-rated forwards, Fowler, left, Owen and McManaman, were starved of success by formidable opponents. Photographs: Marc Aspland

half-mast to think "Mm, a packet of crisps would go down well." "Given this rather subjective set of expectations, Leicester came out of the match on Saturday as the more rewarding side. I fancied crisp all afternoon, enjoyed the sheer virility of their game and saw Izzet often proving that his middle name is actually "Izzet". As for Filbert Street, it's a homely ground staffed by pleasant, helpful people, with free cream buns in the press lounge (an unheard-of kindness that made me cry), a Gary Lineker suite and a public address system that reminds you to fill in your self-assessment form before January 31, or there'll be trouble.

Meanwhile, my expectations of Liverpool (being more football-related) were cruelly dashed. Liverpool looked lightweight, literally, and I spent most of my time worrying how gossamer-thin and young they all were — as if they might blow away in a gust of wind. Does Roy Evans give them nothing to eat? Such a policy is madness. Surely he must see they resemble the juvenile cast of Oliver. McManaman offers up his bowl and says: "Please sir, may I have some more?" and Evans says — no, sorry, I'll have to stop this. Big lump in throat, suddenly.

But it's a serious point, too. Owen may be a whippet for speed, but he weighs only 10st 4lb, which is obviously no good to anybody. When called upon to tackle Steve Walsh, he did it in the exact

hopeless, buzzy manner of a grat tackling a rhino. When Walsh tackled Owen, on the other hand, the result was a small pile of red and white fabric on the far touchline, which I initially mistook for a heap of scarves. "That's funny, where's Owen?" I asked minutes later, and saw the poor wail being walked up and down by the physio, presumably trying to remember what day it was and who was Prime Minister.

"Not menacing, just pretty," was the verdict on Liverpool from a Liverpool fan beside me. And what a damning word "pretty" can be. Liverpool are famed for the elegance of their passing, but it's a quality that is just plain annoying when they fail to penetrate. Pretty play is great when it's linked to

results. But when defenders frustrate, and when your strikers are evidently gagging from malnutrition, pretty play is rather aggravating. Fowler had an early chance at an open goal, but misjudged the angle horribly. Now, in retrospect, who's to say that the problem wasn't plain hunger? Imagine the effect on your salivary glands of all those Walkers Crisps motifs, and then imagine how hard it is to concentrate on goal-scoring when the lyrics to Food, Glorious Food won't stop singing themselves in your head.

SPORTS LETTERS

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 01753 782 521. They should include a daytime telephone number.

New structure for season

From Mr Angus McKay

Sir, With reference to your alarming article about English clubs pulling out of the Heineken Cup (January 8), Northern Hemisphere rugby union will never catch up with its southern counterparts until the structure of the season and the financial management are sorted out. Unfortunately, while the clubs rule the roost in England, a logical progression from club to provincial to international levels during the season (as in New Zealand) is not possible. However, it would surely be possible to come to some sort of a compromise. Below is a suggested framework that would help to address the present problems. Sept-Oct: Dedicated six for European Cup rugby. Second division and preliminary domestic cup rugby could start. Nov-Mar: Reduced "Premier" League (ten teams, 18 matches) and domestic cup games played. Apr-May: Dedicated six for five nations (six nations). May-June: International or tours. Obviously fine-tuning would

be required. Other items to be considered are:

1. Clubs in the European Cup should be financially rewarded according to how far they progress, not for just taking part.
2. Clubs from England or France should have greater representation in Europe according to current strength.
3. Adequate rest and recuperation for players is paramount — the reduced "premises" is a necessity to meet this requirement, as well as reducing international commitments (the Conference and C&G Cup should be scrapped).
4. The Tetley's Bitter Cup-winning team also qualifies for Europe (as in the FA Cup in football), to give equal incentive to league games.

Natural justice of unwritten scrummage laws

From Mr Denys Vaughan

Sir, Simon Barnes is right about the de facto laws of rugby, especially in the scrum. The game is indeed played by consent; sometimes the referee and laws interfere with natural justice and the serious purpose of winning. In 1958, playing hooker for Furness against Orrell, I was rewarded for gaining a ball against the head by a painful bite on my ear. As the scrum broke up, I took the offender aside and explained what I would do if he tried it again. There was a loud "blast on the whistle and the referee, Teddy Wilkinson, awarded a penalty against me, "for ungentlemanly language", ignoring my account of the incident.

At the next lineup my left prop, to even up the score, took a surreptitious, undetected and

fearfully effective swing at the guilty carnivore, felled him and at the same time dislocated his own right wrist. He left the field for the rest of the game with no suspicion of foul play. When he returned from hospital to the clubhouse he congratulated the Orrell front row man on his particularly hard head, lamented having to scratch from golf and table tennis for a month and drank left-handed with the opposition and the referee for the rest of the evening. What a good thing I was soft enough to be wearing a scrum cap.

Yours faithfully, DENYS VAUGHAN, Stonegarth, Hampsfield, Grange over Sands, LA11 6LY. 016675 3473@compuserve.com

Appealing habit

From Mr Craig Chapman

Sir, I have just finished reading Mr R. W. Morris's letter suggesting that the fielding side be punished for what he believes to be unfair leg-before-wicket appeals. I presume that he also feels the same way about all appeals for bat-pad catches and catches made by the keeper down the leg side. Whatever Mr Morris may feel about the subject, it is a fundamental tenet of the game that the fielding side is able to ask the question of the batsman if it has reasonable grounds for belief that the batsman is not, then this will not only discourage what he believes are spurious appeals but also appeals which may have some merit but which the fielding side do not make on fear of penalty.

Umpires today are sufficiently experienced and professional not to be intimidated or influenced by appeals, no matter how frequent or vociferous. That Mr Morris chooses to single out Shane Warne and Ian Healy to illustrate his point of view simply ignores the more hilarious Robert Croft and Alec Stewart show last summer. Yours faithfully, CRAIG CHAPMAN, Avonmore Road, London W14. craig.chapman@cmck.com

Increasing squash

From Mr Charles Freeland

Sir, On January 7 you published an article on squash headed "Britons fall short of Egyptian standard". Anyone who reads it, and indeed anyone who has been reading The Times for the past few years, would believe that the recent British performances in

squash have been as (un)succesful as our performances in tennis, cricket, soccer or almost any other sport.

Yet the English men's team has recently retained the world championship. It won two years ago (not achieved in home conditions such as Wimbledon or Old Trafford but on the humid courts of Malaysia), while a Scot will in February be ranked No 1 in the world. Such exploits (which would lead to mass hysteria in the tabloids if it were table-tennis or even tidily-winks, let alone tennis) have, it is true, been recorded in The Times, but in general have been little reported.

Why this stunning of squash when it is one of the few sports in which the British excel? I can only assume it is because it has proved unsatisfactory television, with the small ball difficult to pick up and, for that reason, has not been able to sell its potential as an Olympic sport.

To argue that it is a snob sport played by an elite in a few countries is twenty years out of date. Practically every major country has a squash presence, which is not something one could say about cricket, rugby or golf. If it is because squash does not have a mass audience, that is hardly logical — it remains

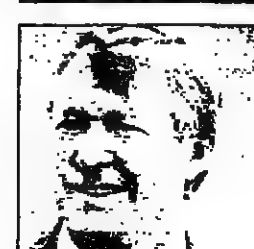
one of the most participative sports in Britain. Yours faithfully, CHARLES FREELAND, Ob. Battenberg 45, 4059 Basle, Switzerland.

Likely lads

From Mr Nicholas Skues

Sir, More than forty years ago at the Folkestone Easter hockey festival, Frank Reynolds, the then England centre half, who was renowned for his organically-grown moustache and sleek hairstyle, led his team on to the field. To the delight of spectators and opposition alike, his entire team sported identical facial adornments and similar hairstyles. From a distance, it was not possible to identify who was the real Reynolds. It was some time before the umpires realised the full extent of the joke — there were 12 lookalikes in the team and not just the required XII I do not remember who was sent off. This simple and happy account surely illustrates the silliness of the media campaign against the innocent remarks of John Morton. Yours sincerely, NICHOLAS SKUES, 27 Sunstar Lane, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 5HS.

This week in THE TIMES



■ Tomorrow Will Southampton prove a happy hunting ground at last for Alex Ferguson, above, and Manchester United in their quest for the Premiership title? ■ Wednesday Julian Muscat watches Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski serve notice of their Australian Open tennis intentions in Melbourne ■ Thursday Will Lee Westwood emerge to challenge Colin Montgomerie as Europe's leading golfer this year? ■ Saturday Football Saturday: the FA Cup fourth round tie-by-tie, Oliver Holt, Frank Leboeuf and Danny Baker

RACING: PROPOSED RULE CHANGE WOULD REQUIRE JOCKEYS TO RIDE OUT HORSES TO LINE

Handicappers see margin for error

By CHRIS McGRATH

THE spectacle of a horse coasting to success — its rider frequently taking long, glancing looks over his shoulder, sometimes even between his legs — could soon be a thing of the past. A change in Jockey Club rules is being sought by official handicappers so that horses have to be ridden out to the line.

As conscientious practitioners

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: **DOUBLE OSCAR**
(2.30 Southwell)
Next best: **Pickens**
(3.30 Southwell)

ners of an intact science, their principal objective is to ensure that the relative merits of horses are not disguised. An amendment to the rules, however, would also address two controversies in the world of betting: the misjudgments, expensive if infrequent, of jockeys easing up or extrajudging that they are caught close home and the possible influence of spread betting on some races.

Malcolm Wallace, the Jockey Club's director of regulation, yesterday said that Nigel Carey, the senior handicapper, is canvassing the opinions of colleagues. Modifications are about to be announced to other aspects of Rule 151, affecting "non-racers", but there has been no



The grey Jeffell storms past Cellatze to capture the Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot on Saturday.

refinement yet of the principle that riders should simply do their utmost to obtain "the best possible placing".

Wallace said: "I don't know if, for example, a horse jumps the final obstacle in sixth place, and the jockey looks over his shoulder and sees that the likely seventh has shot his bolt, it should be made necessary for him to ride out to the line. But the handicappers are providing the stimulus in dressing whether the present

wording should be changed, and we will give serious consideration to whatever they come up with." He added that stewards' secretaries would be discussing the options tomorrow.

As for spread betting, Wallace — though still conferring with bookmakers — is satisfied that it does not represent a threat to the integrity of racing.

One of the most popular types of bet concerns the

aggregate winning margins at a race meeting. Since the spread is always changing, it is possible — by waging before and after a race — effectively to bet on a specific winning margin. You can "buy" the winning distance, if believing that it will be greater than the bookmaker has allowed; or you can "sell", if you think it likely to be less. You win or lose in proportion to how accurate your guess proves to be.

Trainers and owners are alleged to have instructed the jockeys of short-priced favourites to win jump races as narrowly as possible. With this inside knowledge, they can "sell" to lucrative effect. Without it, however, betting on distances is patently the most frivolous of enterprises — and one that should not be dignified as a consideration in the rules of racing.

There are many legitimate factors that determine a rider

Whether or not to ease his mount on the run-in, including its relative exhaustion, speed or mental tenderness. These will render changing the rules a complicated business.

If the jockey has more sinister motivations, the spread betting firms would happily encourage him to do so. They win enough from less well-informed punters to make betting on dis-

count worthwhile. Should the rules suddenly require horses to be ridden out, hands and heads, those punters — at the moment contented to suffer the whims of jockeys — may feel temporarily soothed.

But punters would have genuine cause for gratitude if a change to the rules were to prevent blunders such as that of Norman Williamson at Leicester in November. He was caught in the last yards of a novice chase on Herbert Lodge, the odds-on favourite, having looked over the wrong shoulder.

There are many legitimate factors that determine a rider

Vet's certificates to be verified after Warwick episode

By CHRIS McGRATH

TO LOSE one runner may be considered unfortunate, but to lose eight is frankly incredible. The stewards at Warwick on Saturday have duly referred the matter of eight non-runners from a field of 26 declared for a qualifier for the Gold Card Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival to the Jockey Club — where the episode has heightened existing concerns about the issue of vet's certificates.

To be eligible for the final, horses are not actually required to contest a qualifier, once declared. By bizarre coincidence, seven of the non-runners were furnished with certificates, detailing various eleventh-hour impediments. Each is now being verified by the Jockey Club's security department and disciplinary action will follow should any decide to be exposed.

Dr Peter Webb, the Jockey Club's chief veterinary adviser, has for several months already been engaged in a review of the integrity of vet's certificates. Having even found instances where they have not been issued by a vet at all, his findings seem certain to result in stricter regulation.

There is no doubting the robust health of Jeffell, in common with many of Ar-

thur Moore's horses. The Irish trainer, having won the Ladbrooke Hurdle seven days earlier with Graphic Equilizer, again took the weekend's big race when Jeffell won the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot.

Yet another grey — consolidating one of the season's defining motifs — in AN Express, won the Totter Warwick National. The Totter certainly appreciates the interest generated by such races, having laid an unraced horse to lose £1 million by winning the Grand National in any year from 2000 onwards.

The creature burdened with these expectations, named Maidstone Mowarch, makes his debut at Farnwell today. His owner, Pegasus Wilson, has struck a bet of £4,000 at 250-1 on the basis that he can live up to the billing of "the Weatherbury Stars of Tomorrow" bumper. Even if Aintree standards, that would be some feat. Celestic, the winner of the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot, to join John Dunlop after the recent death of David Morley. Christopher Spence, his part-owner, said: "I think John is the person David would have wanted to train Celestic as they were great friends."

SOUTHWELL

12.30 Geminus John
1.00 Marmalade
1.30 Zaito
2.00 Zaito

2.30 Songheast
3.00 Vennian
3.30 Picola
4.00 Prince De Berry

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.00 LADY BLK.

GUIDE TO OUR RACEDAY

12.30 Geminus John (12) 1.00 Marmalade (12) 1.30 Zaito (12) 2.00 Zaito (12) 2.30 Songheast (12) 3.00 Vennian (12) 3.30 Picola (12) 4.00 Prince De Berry (12)

GOING: STANDARD

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

12.30 FAIR ISLE HANDICAP

(Div 1: £1,735; 1m) (10 runners)
101 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
102 (10) 000-000 BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
103 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
104 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
105 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
106 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
107 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
108 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
109 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
110 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
111 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70

1.00 FAIR ISLE HANDICAP

(Div 1: £1,735; 1m) (10 runners)
201 (10) 051-111 BODENHURST PARK 3 (2) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
202 (10) 051-111 BODENHURST PARK 3 (2) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
203 (10) 051-111 BODENHURST PARK 3 (2) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
204 (10) 051-111 BODENHURST PARK 3 (2) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
205 (10) 051-111 BODENHURST PARK 3 (2) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
206 (10) 051-111 BODENHURST PARK 3 (2) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
207 (10) 051-111 BODENHURST PARK 3 (2) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
208 (10) 051-111 BODENHURST PARK 3 (2) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
209 (10) 051-111 BODENHURST PARK 3 (2) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
210 (10) 051-111 BODENHURST PARK 3 (2) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70

2.00 ISLE OF SKYE CLAIMING LIMITED STAKES

(£2,085; 70) (13 runners)
401 (10) 000-000 BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
402 (10) 000-000 BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
403 (10) 000-000 BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
404 (10) 000-000 BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
405 (10) 000-000 BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
406 (10) 000-000 BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
407 (10) 000-000 BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
408 (10) 000-000 BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
409 (10) 000-000 BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
410 (10) 000-000 BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70

3.00 SMALL HANDICAP

(£2,785; 1m 30) (12 runners)
601 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
602 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
603 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
604 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
605 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
606 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
607 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
608 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
609 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
610 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70

3.30 BAYLIS BELLEVILLE STAKES

(£2,085; 1m 40) (8 runners)
1 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
2 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
3 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
4 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
5 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
6 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
7 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
8 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70

4.00 BARRA HANDICAP

(Div 1: £1,735; 1m 40) (10 runners)
101 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
102 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
103 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
104 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
105 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
106 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
107 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
108 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
109 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
110 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70

FORM FOCUS

DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
BODENHURST PARK 3 (2) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
BODENHURST PARK 3 (2) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
BRICKENHURST 5 (4) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
BODENHURST PARK 3 (2) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70

TOURNAI PARK

1.15 Geminus John (12) 1.00 Marmalade (12) 1.30 Zaito (12) 2.00 Zaito (12) 2.30 Songheast (12) 3.00 Vennian (12) 3.30 Picola (12) 4.00 Prince De Berry (12)

2.45 FORTWELL HANDICAP CHASE

1.15 Geminus John (12) 1.00 Marmalade (12) 1.30 Zaito (12) 2.00 Zaito (12) 2.30 Songheast (12) 3.00 Vennian (12) 3.30 Picola (12) 4.00 Prince De Berry (12)

Proud Sun rises to occasion

FOOT-TO-FOOT BY CARL EVANS

THERE will be talk of the men's open race at the Army meeting at Lurball for years to come after Proud Sun beat Farnus and Holland House in a thriller on Saturday.

Two weeks decided the spoils among the three geldings, who had looked so big and unassuming in the parade ring. In the contest, they made their moves late — in a surge three from home — and then charged home with a vengeance.

Proud Sun and Farnus squared up to each other on the run to the final turn, when Stewart Pike's horse, ridden by Seamus Donnell, led the speed to pull two lengths clear. But the leader felled the last. Tim Mitchell conjured a mighty leap from

Farnus, which helped to cut the deficit.

From there it was strength, not speed which prevailed and, with Farnus wandering away from Mitchell's whip towards the paddock exit, it was Proud Sun who claimed the prize. Holland House was several lengths down on the run-in, but finished to such effect that he would have won in another 30 yards.

It was unbelievable stuff — a hunter chase at a point-to-point meeting — and a memory to treasure. Hopefully, they will meet again in Cheltenham's Postmen's Chase.

Proud Sun was having his first run for 18 months after breaking down, and credit must go to Pike, who said: "He was a good horse when he last

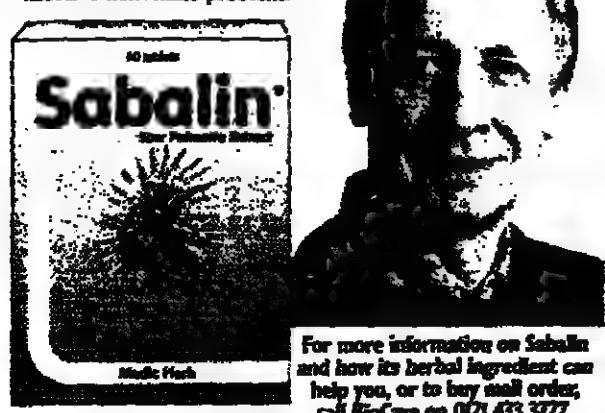
ran and it was my duty to bring him back to a good horse."

RESULTS: NORTH NOFOK (Hampshire) Open Men 1, Jack (10) 10-10 A Clark 70; 2, Ascent (10) 10-10 A Clark 70; 3, Ascent (10) 10-10 A Clark 70; 4, Ascent (10) 10-10 A Clark 70; 5, Ascent (10) 10-10 A Clark 70; 6, Ascent (10) 10-10 A Clark 70; 7, Ascent (10) 10-10 A Clark 70; 8, Ascent (10) 10-10 A Clark 70; 9, Ascent (10) 10-10 A Clark 70; 10, Ascent (10) 10-10 A Clark 70

Male Urinary Discomfort?

Nothing is more disrupting for men than not being able to get a good night's sleep because of the urge 'to go', particularly in the small hours. Now, research proves that the active ingredient in Sabalin helps reduce the need to urinate frequently and improves your flow, too! So you, (and your partner) can get a good night's sleep.

Sabalin is a traditional herbal remedy for the symptomatic relief of short-term male urinary discomfort. Strong and gentle, it contains a highly potent extract of the Saw Palmetto fruit to provide gentle, yet effective relief for this inconvenient male problem.



For more information on Sabalin and how its herbal ingredient can help you, or to buy small orders, call 0800 433 3377.

1.45 BOURNEMOUTH HANDICAP

(£3,980; 3m 20) (11 runners)
101 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
102 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
103 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
104 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
105 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
106 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
107 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
108 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
109 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
110 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70

2.15 DOCKEN HURDLE CHALLENGE

(£2,785; 2m 10) (12 runners)
101 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
102 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
103 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
104 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
105 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
106 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
107 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
108 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
109 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70
110 (10) 040-040 DEBIL DASH 4 (5) M Ward J 10-10 A Clark 70

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Ascot
1.15 Geminus John (12) 1.00 Marmalade (12) 1.30 Zaito (12) 2.00 Zaito (12) 2.30 Songheast (12) 3.00 Vennian (12) 3.30 Picola (12) 4.00 Prince De Berry (12)

Lingfield Park
1.15 Geminus John (12) 1.00 Marmalade (12) 1.30 Zaito (12) 2.00 Zaito (12) 2.30 Songheast (12) 3.00 Vennian (12) 3.30 Picola (12) 4.00 Prince De Berry (12)

John Goodbody reveals who will run for *The Times* in the London Marathon to raise money for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund

Going the extra miles

FLORA

LONDON MARATHON



Running a marathon can be an emotional experience. But few competitors in the event's history will have been so driven by their memories as those runners raising money for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund in the 1998 Flora London Marathon.

Included in the Team Flora, which now numbers more than 600, all of whom will be "Running for Diana", is a group of 20 runners of *The Times*. They were selected last week to take part in the event by a panel, which included Chris Moon, the captain of Team Flora.

The *Times* 20 includes Daniel Galvin, at whose hairdressing salon the Princess used to be a client. Mr Galvin, World Hair Colourist of the Year, has run the last two London Marathons. "April 26 will be a very emotional day. I will think about her all through the race," he says. "Last year, when I was raising money for the NSPCC and the going got tough, I thought about the little kids. I am sure our runners will be thinking of Diana and the good causes to which she gave her name."

The distress caused by the death of the Princess and the desire of many Britons to do something in her name has led to unprecedented interest in the event this year. A record 100,000 people applied to enter, including 20,000 who specifically responded to an invitation to run for the Memorial Fund. A total of 41,500 have been accepted to take part in the 1998 race.

They will be participating in an event which is still growing in popularity. Last year it was televised in more than 100 countries, with the viewing figures in Britain peaking at 5.3 million. On the streets, there were an estimated 600,000 cheering on the 29,135 competitors who ran from Greenwich to the Mall.

The *Times* 20, and five reserves, includes people from every nation in the British Isles and a runner from Singapore. They range from people

who have never completed a marathon to experienced athletes such as Frank Murphy, who won a 1,500 metres silver medal in the 1969 European championships, and John McDonald, who has completed more than 120 marathons, including four in eight days. They also hold a variety of jobs — national tennis coach, primary school teacher, trainee accountant, banker, and professor in management.

Some had met the Princess, others had not, but they were so moved by her death that they decided to run in her memory. They will do this on Sunday, April 26, through some of the streets where the



coffin of the Princess was carried on September 6.

Many will be inspired by Chris Moon, the leader of Team Flora, who lost his lower right arm and leg when a landmine blew up in Mozambique and who later worked with the Princess in her campaign against landmines.

He believes that completing the distance of 26 miles, 385 yards is "something that any reasonably healthy person can do if they have the determination or the will".

He is an example to us all. Not only has he run the London Marathon but, last April, he became the first leg amputee to finish the 140-mile Great Sahara Run, described as the toughest in the world.

Mr Moon has been an inspiration to so many people across the world that he has been invited to carry the torch at the opening ceremony of the

Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan, next month.

He met the Princess several times. Alison Bartlett, another member of the *Times* 20, met her only once but their lives intertwined. They went to the same school, West Heath in Kent, which closed on August 31 last year, the day the Princess died. Ms Bartlett then attended Oxford Brookes University, where she studied catering management and publishing, and where she showed her physical ability when she finished second out of 200 girls in a fitness test assessed with the Oxford University Training Corps. She joined Harrods in 1994, working in the management offices for 2½ years, and in September was asked to help co-ordinate the vast volume of letters that the store received after the deaths of the Princess and Dodi Fayed.

"I shall never forget how much she meant to people," she says. "Nor will I forget people's grief in that week." Having completed a three-month course at the Ischbold School of Design, she is now looking for a job. She is also preparing for the marathon.



Daniel Galvin: "Diana was a genuine ray of sunshine"

"It was a miracle how she got so many countries behind her in the landmine campaign. People did not realise what an incredible ambassador Diana was. She was a ray of sunshine to us all."

He was watching television when the news came through of the car accident in Paris. "When I went out in London with my family later that day everyone seemed zombie-like," he says.

He attended the funeral service at Westminster Abbey and was in tears from morning to night. "She made everyone at ease whenever she came into the salon," he recalls. "When one of the girls had a baby, Diana asked her to bring the child to the salon so she could see it."

12 Mrs Frances Doe, Hallisham
13 Mrs Gill Day, Birkenhead
14 Mrs K. Barker, Singapore
15 Mr Vincent Sullivan, Wales
16 Mr Rob Jacques, Welwyn
17 Mr Daniel Galvin, London
18 Mr Nigel Sears, Lewis
19 Mr John Anderson, Cheltenham
20 Mr John McDonald, Worsley

RESERVES
1 Miss Katherine Boreham, Cornwall
2 Dr Marieke Kruidering, London
3 Mr James Johnson, London
4 Mr John McCabe, Guildford
5 Mr Vernon Neve-Dunn, Purley



Alison Bartlett, above: her life intertwined with Diana's. Right, Joyce Chepchumba of Kenya, a 1997 winner



Going with the flow: runners take a water break



An irregular beat: some of London's finest taking part in the 1997 marathon: above, Diana starts off the 1988 event



Off their marks and going: last year's contenders set off on the 26-mile London Marathon

TAKE THE WEEK OFF. YOU'LL NEED ALL YOUR ENERGY FOR SATURDAY.

SPORT
Vision
WEEKEND
metro
the times
magazine
meg@

Don't miss the new 100 page glossy magazine this Saturday in THE TIMES

Under the
David Powell
Young talent
shapes up
Bristol fast



Fourth round

Defendant ent

Under the skin of sport

David Powell on a football club keen to invest in the stars of tomorrow

Young talent shapes up in Bristol fashion

IF A lesson is to be learnt, it is as well it is learnt young. Bristol City had just beaten Swansea City 2-0 to earn a fourth-round tie with Arsenal in the FA Youth Cup, a match in which they never seemed likely to concede a goal. A satisfactory night, then? "No, not exactly," David Burnside, the Bristol City director of youth development, insisted. There is more to this game than winning, his boys would be told.

Ten minutes in Burnside's company and you know the kind of man you are dealing with: driven, assertive, progressive. Overwhelming, even, but a man able to convince you of his club's foresight in appointing him to the task of laying foundations for the push towards Premiership football.

In his office before the game, Burnside was setting out the objectives for the evening. "It is not to do with winning FA Youth Cup ties," he said. "The important issue is how well we play. I want to see the individuals, groups and team function to the principles laid down in our programme. If they do that, and do not win, that's fine."

The team won but fell short of Burnside's ideal. Chances were squandered and the passing, at times, went as astray as a couple of ginger Tamworth boys. "If our final ball and our shooting had been better, we would probably have won five or six-nothing," Burnside said.



"Our domination was not as effective as it ought to have been."

The win, though, presented the chance to make amends. "Now we go to Arsenal and that is a lovely test," Burnside said. "We are expected to lose, but I imagine we will surprise Arsenal." Again, though, the performance will be more important than the result.

To understand Burnside's high demands, one has to realise the context. He gave up working for the Football Association to move in with a club. "I was the England youth-team manager for a long time and you do not leave posts like that easily or quickly," he said.

Bristol City, though, was just too tempting to resist. They are well-placed in the Nationwide League second division. The important thing is they are *thinking* Premiership.

John Laycock, the vice-chairman, convinced me that it was right to leave the job I had and face a new challenge," Burnside said. "It is about taking my under-14 team and seeing what we have delivered when they are under-18. How many players have we in the senior squad?"

The importance of a vibrant youth policy is bound to be appreciated at a club where three players fresh from the system are featuring in a successful first team. Tom Doherty, 18, Louis Carey, 20, and Matthew Hewlett, 21, are all performing to a standard demanded by John Ward, the manager.



Leigh Devuigt, of Swansea City, comes under pressure during their match against Bristol City

ager. "I have got an ego that enjoys putting these kids in," Ward said. "Not an arrogant ego, or a silly one, but I do enjoy giving debuts to young players and, if they come through the ranks, it is even sweeter." Doherty, Carey and Hewlett have signed long-term contracts because, Ward said, "we want to protect the policy."

Presuming City gain promotion, they will be up against bigger and richer clubs next season. "Clubs who can spend three or four million pounds on a player," Ward said. "We are not in that category and you wonder when we are going to be. My whole set of professionals did not cost that much, so it seems a way off." But then, as Burnside said: "Why spend £7 million if you have got a £7 million player at home?" If such talent can be

nurtured, what a rich return that would be on a development programme costing, wages included, £200,000 a year.

Against Swansea, Andrew Jordan, a central defender and son of Joe, and Aaron Brown, in midfield, hinted at greatness to come. When Burnside said that "one or two" of his team would probably appear in the first team before the season's end, one imagined that it was them he had in mind.

By recruiting players as young as 13 from outside the immediate area, with offers of scholarships to nearby Clifton College, Burnside is expanding the club's horizons. Beyond that, opportunities exist at Bath University. "We have access to the best players in Bristol and they live at

home," Burnside said. "But, if we see a 13-year-old in, say, Newcastle, whom we think is outstanding, we will offer him not just the technical programme we have here, we will also say there is an education for him at public school."

"When they get out of their A levels, if they want to continue with a degree course they can do that because we have struck up an arrangement with Bath University."

Burnside's plan is to develop a football academy and a community-based programme, partly financed by the National Lottery. A dreamer he is not, so we had better believe that it will happen, as he believes that Arsenal can be overcome in the next round. Just as long as the lessons of round three have been learnt.

Gallic flair and power warrant Wembley final

BY MICHAEL AYLWIN

LIKE fathers, like sons. Although many of the so-called sons actually play first-class rugby with their figurative fathers, the French students are dominating the inaugural The Times Student European Rugby Championship (SERC) just as their senior counterparts have dominated the Heineken Cup.

The sole French representatives in the competition, the University of Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, have to date swept all before them. Having started in the pool stages with a 70-point thrashing of Northumbria, they went on to top their group ahead of Loughborough. Last Wednesday night, in front of a crowd of more than 3,000, they then stormed into the final with a 48-29 home victory over University College, Cork, who had themselves beaten Oxford earlier in the tournament.

Twelve tries were scored in this all-singing, all-dancing trailer for university rugby, with the Irish claiming five of them. Toulouse were bigger, older and wiser than UCC, and never looked in danger of losing the tie, but the Irish possessed boundless reserves of energy and spirit, still running at Toulouse come the end with as much verve as they did at the beginning.

UCC are a self-contained rugby club, placed third in the Irish second division, and have cultivated their exuberant brand of solidarity. UCC students who play their club rugby elsewhere, of whom there are six, were not considered for selection. The Toulouse team, however, was composed of a myriad of first-class rugby players. Several play their weekend rugby with the Toulouse club proper, most notably Nicolas Spangher, their enormous lock, Jean-Marie Bisaro, their enormous No 8, and Xavier

Garbojosa, their enormously talented right wing.

Garbojosa has an outside chance of playing for France in the five nations' championship this year, and is in the preliminary squad. But he is certainly considered a reasonable bet to be in the team this time next year.

Toulouse now progress to the final, where they will meet the winners of the postponed semi-final between Cardiff Institute and Swansea, due to be played on February 4.

There is some debate, however, surrounding the date and venue of the final. The favoured plan is for the game



to be played at Wembley as a curtain-raiser to the international between Wales and France on Sunday, April 5. But Michel Bondis, the French representative on the SERC committee, favours a midweek date in Wales.

If the final is anything like the semi-final on Wednesday, then it will be eminently worthy of the Wembley stage. This was rugby at its unfettered best, a balanced mix of Gallic flair and power, encountering a rampant Irish appetite, which was as ravenous for the post-match celebrations as it had been for the rugby. Like fathers, like sons, indeed.

Court of Appeal

Law Report January 19, 1998

Court of Appeal

Defendant entitled to stay

Halki Shipping Corporation v Sopex Oils Ltd
Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas
[Judgment December 19]

A defendant who was a party to an arbitration agreement was entitled to a stay of court proceedings unless the court was satisfied that the action was not brought in respect of the matter referred to arbitration or was brought under an agreement which was null and void, inoperative or incapable of being performed.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority. Lord Justice Hirst dissenting, dismissing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Halki Shipping Corporation, against a decision of Mr Justice Clarke (The Times October 13, 1997; [1997] 1 WLR 1268) granting an application by the defendants, Sopex Oils Ltd, for a stay of the plaintiffs' action for US\$408,852.43 in respect of demurrage claimed as a result of failure to load and discharge the vessel Halki within the laytime provided in a tanker voyage charterparty dated June 20, 1995.

The charterparty provided for arbitration. The plaintiffs have issued a summons under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for judgment for the amount claimed in the action.

Section 9 of the Arbitration Act 1996 provides: "(1) A party to an arbitration agreement may apply to the court for an order staying any legal proceedings in which the party is a party to the proceedings, on the ground that the proceedings should be referred to arbitration."

When the parties had chosen arbitration for their dispute resolution, the court was bound to refer the parties to arbitration, unless the court was satisfied that the proceedings should be referred to arbitration.

His reasoning would be that by their arbitration clause referring to arbitration, the parties were without qualification agreeing on a form of alternative dispute resolution to that provided by the courts.

When the parties had chosen arbitration for their dispute resolution, the court was bound to refer the parties to arbitration, unless the court was satisfied that the proceedings should be referred to arbitration.

His reasoning would be that by their arbitration clause referring to arbitration, the parties were without qualification agreeing on a form of alternative dispute resolution to that provided by the courts.

When the parties had chosen arbitration for their dispute resolution, the court was bound to refer the parties to arbitration, unless the court was satisfied that the proceedings should be referred to arbitration.

section the court shall grant a stay unless satisfied that the arbitration agreement is null and void, inoperative, or incapable of being performed."

Mr Nicholas Hamblen, QC, for the plaintiffs, Mr Richard Waller for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said the plaintiffs, the shipowners, sought to rely on Order 14 for summary judgment against the defendants in respect of their demurrage claim.

The defendants, the charterers, had successfully applied to Mr Justice Clarke to stay those proceedings on the basis that there was an arbitration agreement and that the legal proceedings were brought in respect of a matter which under the agreement was to be referred to arbitration.

The court had to consider whether there was a dispute within the meaning of the arbitration clause when the defendants refused to admit and pay the amount claimed.

If he had to decide the matter untroubled by previous authority, his Lordship would unhesitatingly conclude that there was a dispute as to the entirety of the sum claimed, and that the proceedings should be stayed and referred to arbitration.

His reasoning would be that by their arbitration clause referring to arbitration, the parties were without qualification agreeing on a form of alternative dispute resolution to that provided by the courts.

When the parties had chosen arbitration for their dispute resolution, the court was bound to refer the parties to arbitration, unless the court was satisfied that the proceedings should be referred to arbitration.

His reasoning would be that by their arbitration clause referring to arbitration, the parties were without qualification agreeing on a form of alternative dispute resolution to that provided by the courts.

His Lordship said the appeal turned on the significance of the repeal by the Arbitration Act 1996 of one of the grounds for refusing a stay of legal proceedings where there was an arbitration agreement, namely where the court was satisfied that "there was not in fact any dispute between the parties with regard to the matters agreed to be referred" (section 1 of the Arbitration Act 1979).

That section had been inserted into the existing arbitration legislation in 1990. It did not attempt to restrict the parties' power to give the widest possible meaning to "dispute" in their arbitration agreement, but provided that the court should not stay legal proceedings where the dispute "had been defined in satisfaction of 'there is not in fact any dispute between the parties'."

Logically it would only come into play where there was a dispute between the parties but the plaintiff, seeking to resist the stay, could satisfy the court there was in fact nothing disputable between the parties.

Mr Hamblen argued that the words of the 1990 amendment were and always had been superfluous and that the House of Lords' decision in *Nova Dorsej Knit Ltd v Kamngarm Spinnerei GmbH* ([1997] 1 WLR 715) meant the denial of a stay of legal proceedings where a claim could not create a dispute under the arbitration agreement.

His Lordship would be reluctant to hold that neither the amendment nor its repeal affected the law. Its genesis contradicted that view. The presumption was that Parliament did nothing in vain. Section 9 of the 1996 Act contained nothing to indicate that a mere clarification was intended.

The scheme of the amendment was such that the plaintiff in the action, resisting the stay, would give pride of place to the formula-

tion, "no dispute in fact" as it appeared in the statute and seek a purposive and restrictive interpretation of what constituted a "dispute in fact."

There was a real and significant difference between constraining the unqualified word "dispute" in an arbitration agreement, and the qualification imposed by "in fact no dispute," contained in the 1990 amendment.

Mr Justice Clarke had been right to describe the fact that the 1990 amendment was not re-enacted in the 1996 Act as a key difference, leaving almost all disputes with the arbitration clause to be determined by the agreed tribunal.

Section 1 of the Arbitration Act 1996 emphasised the importance of the fact that the parties had chosen an alternative form of dispute resolution and should not be limited to that preference unless "such safeguards are necessary in the public interest."

Taking into account Lord Mustill's endorsement in *Channel Tunnel Group Ltd v Balfour Beatty Construction Ltd* ([1993] AC 394), of judicial warnings against encroachment on the parties' agreement to have their commercial differences decided by their chosen tribunal, his Lordship concluded that the intention of the 1996 Act was to exclude the Order 14 jurisdiction based on an investigation of what was in fact disputable as contained in the 1990 amendment.

The exclusion of the 1990 amendment showed that Parliament did not consider the safeguards against arbitral delay that Order 14 provided were today necessary in the public interest.

With the exclusion of the 1990 amendment went the authority of the cases founding themselves on it, the most important of which was *Nova Dorsej Knit Ltd v Kamngarm Spinnerei GmbH* where the speeches were based on the meaning of the word "dispute" in the 1930 amendment rather than in the arbitration agreement.

Mr Justice Clarke had been right to follow the line of authority from *Tradax International SA v Cornubius Ltd* ([1981] 1 All ER 344) to *Ellerine Bros (Pty) Ltd v Klinger* ([1982] 1 WLR 1375). The appeal would be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE SWINTON THOMAS said that if a party had refused to pay a sum which was claimed or had denied that it was owing then in the ordinary use of the English language there was a dispute between the parties.

As a result of the 1996 Act the court no longer had to consider whether there was in fact any dispute between the parties but only whether there was a dispute within the arbitration clause of the agreement. He too would dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST delivered a dissenting judgment.

Solicitors: Dorman & Co, Clifton Chance.

Regina v Chalkley
Regina v Jeffries
Before Lord Justice Auld, Mr Justice Ian Kennedy and Mr Justice Bodefield
[Judgment December 18]

The Court of Appeal had no power under section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968, as substituted by section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1995, to allow an appeal if it did not think the conviction unsafe but was dissatisfied in some way with what had happened at the trial.

The former tests of "unsatisfactoriness" and "material irregularity" were no longer available save as thought processes leading to a decision as to the safety of a conviction.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing appeals by Tony Michael Chalkley and Tony Brisbane McEwan Jeffries against their convictions, on pleas of guilty, following a ruling by Judge Crane at Peterborough Crown Court, to conspiracy to commit robbery, for which they were each sentenced to ten years imprisonment.

Mr T. F. H. Cassel, QC, as assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Chalkley; Mr T. C. E. Brown, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Jeffries; Mr Howard Morrison for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE AULD, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellants had changed their pleas from not guilty to guilty because the trial judge ruled that the prosecution could adduce evidence of covertly obtained tape recordings of conversations which took place between the appellants during the period of the alleged conspiracy.

The appeal raised, inter alia, the following issues of importance: 1 Whether appellants who had pleaded guilty because the judge had rejected their application to exclude evidence which they considered to render their defence hopeless on the facts, could challenge their convictions by way of appeal, irrespective of the correctness or otherwise of the judge's ruling; and 2 Whether the Court of Appeal could quash a conviction which it considered to be safe but which it regarded as in some other respect unsatisfactory.

Section 2(1) in both its old and new forms entitled the Court of Appeal to quash a conviction based on a plea of guilty where the plea was mistaken or uninformed or without intention to admit the truth of the offence charged.

In the case of the old form, relying on a passage from the judgment of Lord Justice Woolf in *R v Preston* ([1992] 95 Cr App R 355, 381), drawing on an observation of Lord Justice Robert Goff in *R v Hunt* ([1986] 82 Cr App R 244, 249), it might also do so where it was "founded upon" a material irregu-

larity or, as Mr Cassel submitted, an erroneous ruling on a point of law.

The test now was simply whether the conviction was unsafe. In order to understand the role of the pre-January 1, 1996 jurisprudence in applying that test it was important to understand what was meant by a plea of guilty being "founded upon" such a ruling.

There were two possibilities: 1 Where in the light of the admitted facts the ruling left the defendant at trial with no legal basis for a verdict of not guilty; and 2 More broadly, where the meaning of the expression "founded upon" in this context meant "influenced by."

In their Lordships' view, the authorities demonstrated the logical imperative of the first, narrow, construction of the expression "founded upon" in that context. It was only where an erroneous ruling of law, coupled with the admitted facts, made acquittal legally impossible that a plea of guilty could properly be said to have been "founded upon" the ruling so as to enable a successful appeal against conviction.

The fact that an erroneous ruling of law as to the admissibility of certain prosecution evidence drove a defendant to plead guilty because it made the case against him factually overwhelming would not do. It did not make it impossible for him to maintain his innocence as a matter of law or fact, it merely made it harder.

Under the new section 2(1) in appeals against conviction following a plea of guilty, the somewhat

mechanical test of whether a change of plea to guilty was "founded upon" a particular feature of the trial, namely a wrong direction of law or a material irregularity, gave way to the broader question whether, given the circumstances prompting the change of plea to guilty, the conviction was unsafe.

However, even when put that way, the good sense of preferring the narrower interpretation, which their Lordships had identified, of the expression "founded upon" lingered on.

Thus, a conviction would be unsafe where the effect of an incorrect ruling of law on admitted facts was to leave an accused with no legal basis for a verdict of guilty on those facts.

But a conviction would not normally be unsafe where an accused was influenced to change his plea to guilty because he recognised that, as a result of a ruling to admit strong evidence against him, his case on the facts was hopeless.

A change of plea to guilty in such circumstances would normally be regarded as an acknowledgment of the truth of the facts constituting the offence.

Their Lordships qualified the above propositions with the word "normally" because there remained the basic rule that the court should quash a conviction where the plea was mistaken or uninformed or without intention to admit the truth of the offence charged.

This was, therefore, not a case in which the appellants could succeed

on the basis that their convictions were unsafe because their pleas of guilty were, in the proper sense of the old test, "founded upon" the judge's ruling.

There was the possibility, however, that the appellants' pleas of guilty were induced by oppression exercised by the police in obtaining, and relying on evidence which, as Mr Cassel submitted, the judge had wrongly admitted.

Such a suggestion necessitated a return to the removal of the word "unsatisfactory" from section 2(1) of the 1968 Act as a ground of appeal against conviction.

In their Lordships' judgment, whatever might have been the use by the court of the former tests of "unsatisfactoriness" and "material irregularity", they were no longer available, save as thought processes leading to a decision on the safety of a conviction.

Under the substituted section 2(1), the court had no power to allow an appeal, where it did not think the conviction unsafe, if it was dissatisfied in some way with what went on at the trial.

That change might have considerable effect, particularly in those cases where, although the court was of the view that justice had not been seen to be done, it was satisfied that it had been done; that is, that the conviction was safe.

The appellants' appeals against conviction failed because, by their pleas of guilty, they intended to admit and had admitted their guilt and their convictions were, therefore, safe.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Cambridge.

Power to stay libel action

Berezovsky and Another v Forbes Inc and Another
Before Mr Justice Popplewell
[Judgment October 22]

The High Court had jurisdiction to stay a defendant's application to set aside proceedings on the ground that England was not the appropriate forum. On the facts, England was not the appropriate forum for an action brought by two Russian nationals against a magazine published in the United States with a circulation in England of c.2000.

Mr Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division granting an application by the defendants, Forbes Inc and the appellants, Boris Berezovsky and Nikolai Iosadishvili.

Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC and Mr Heather Rogers, for the defendants; Mr James Price, QC

and Mr Stephen Szmle for the plaintiffs.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said Mr Price had relied on *Shenill v Press Alliance* ([1992] 2 WLR 1) and *Schapiro v Ahronson* (unreported, March 21, 1997) for the proposition that a victim of libel was entitled to bring an action for damages against a publisher where the publication was distributed.

His Lordship was bound to follow *Spiliada Maritime Corporation v Cansulor* ([1987] 1 AC 460), which established that where a party was not subject to the jurisdiction the court had to consider on the merits what was the appropriate forum.

Shenill was confined to cases in which the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters, imported into English law by section 2(1) of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act

1982, applied. Dicta of Lord Justice Peter Gibson in *Schapiro v Ahronson* to the effect that an English resident was entitled to bring proceedings in England against a foreign publisher whose publication enjoyed only a limited English circulation were too widely drawn.

His Lordship proceeded to consider the merits of the application. The articles complained of were published to a great number of people in the United States, to some 2,000 purchasers in England and to 13 purchasers in Russia. They were defamatory.

His Lordship took the view that the plaintiffs' connection with England was tenuous. It was not necessary to decide whether Russia or America was more appropriate inter se.

The case had almost no connection at all with England and it should not be tried in England.

Solicitors: Biddle & Co, Peter Carter-Rock & Partners.

1982, applied. Dicta of Lord Justice Peter Gibson in *Schapiro v Ahronson* to the effect that an English resident was entitled to bring proceedings in England against a foreign publisher whose publication enjoyed only a limited English circulation were too widely drawn.

His Lordship proceeded to consider the merits of the application. The articles complained of were published to a great number of people in the United States, to some 2,000 purchasers in England and to 13 purchasers in Russia. They were defamatory.

His Lordship took the view that the plaintiffs' connection with England was tenuous. It was not necessary to decide whether Russia or America was more appropriate inter se.

The case had almost no connection at all with England and it should not be tried in England.

Solicitors: Biddle & Co, Peter Carter-Rock & Partners.

Regina v Newcastle upon Tyne Coroner, Ex parte A
Before Mr Justice Tucker
[Judgment December 19]

An inquest remained public where a witness gave evidence from behind a screen and rule 17 of the Coroners' Rules (SI 1984 No 552) did not preclude such an arrangement.

Mr Justice Tucker so held in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing the application of A for certiorari to quash the decision of the Newcastle upon Tyne coroner not to allow him to give his evidence at an inquest while screened from public sight.

Rule 17 of the 1984 Rules provided: "Every inquest shall be held in public. Provided that the coroner may direct that the public be excluded from an inquest or any part of an inquest if he considers that it would be in the interests of national security to do so."

Mr John Milford, QC, for the applicant; Mr Brian Forster for Northumbria Police; Mr Keith Morrison for the coroner.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER said

that the application was made by a member of the Northumbria Police armed response team, A, and directed that his identity be not disclosed. The person whose death was the subject of the coroner's inquest had been shot dead by A during a burglary. No national security issue was raised by the case.

The purpose of rule 17 was twofold: First, to allow interested parties and members of the public to hear the evidence of the circumstances of a death; second, to prevent members of the public from hearing evidence which affected national security.

Judges of the crown court were not subject to the same statutory constraints as a coroner. Nevertheless, the courts often, and for a variety of reasons, permitted screens to be erected in court to shield the witness from the sight of the defendant or from members of the public.

There was no suggestion that the proceedings were thereby not in public. They could be heard by everyone who chose to attend court, including the press, and

were not regarded as a hearing in camera from which the public were excluded.

His Lordship saw no reason why the same approach should be adopted in proceedings in the coroner's court, albeit the coroner exercised his powers pursuant to statute.

His Lordship accepted the fundamental principle that where a person was shot dead by a police officer there was a public interest in ensuring that the inquiry into the circumstances of the death was conducted openly and in public view but he did not see how that principle was infringed by allowing a witness to give evidence from behind screens.

Solicitor: Geoffrey Forrester & Co, Jarrow; Miss Denise Aubrey, Ponteland; Miss Valerie Dadds, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Correction

In *Brown and Others v Bennett and Others* (The Times January 3) the reference in the last paragraph to the Bennetts should have read "the Browns", that is, the plaintiffs.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

, week's change

SEC ID	SEC TYPE	Company	Price	Vol	Net	SEC ID	SEC TYPE	Company	Price	Vol	Net
78150	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78160	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78151	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78161	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78152	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78162	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78153	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78163	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78154	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78164	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78155	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78165	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78156	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78166	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78157	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78167	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78158	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78168	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78159	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78169	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78160	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78170	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78161	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78171	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78162	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78172	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78163	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78173	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78164	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78174	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78165	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78175	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78166	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78176	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78167	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78177	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78168	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78178	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78169	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78179	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78170	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78180	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78171	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78181	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78172	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78182	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78173	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78183	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78174	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78184	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78175	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78185	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78176	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78186	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78177	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78187	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78178	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78188	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78179	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78189	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78180	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78190	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78181	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78191	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78182	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78192	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78183	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78193	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78184	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78194	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78185	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78195	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78186	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78196	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78187	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78197	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78188	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78198	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78189	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78199	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750
78190	ST	Boeing Corp	26 1/2	100	2,625	78200	ST	IBM Corp	207 1/2	100	20,750

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

1914	25.4	1915	25.4	1916	25.4	1917	25.4	1918	25.4	1919	25.4	1920	25.4	1921	25.4	1922	25.4	1923	25.4	1924	25.4	1925	25.4	1926	25.4	1927	25.4	1928	25.4	1929	25.4	1930	25.4	1931	25.4	1932	25.4	1933	25.4	1934	25.4	1935	25.4	1936	25.4	1937	25.4	1938	25.4	1939	25.4	1940	25.4	1941	25.4	1942	25.4	1943	25.4	1944	25.4	1945	25.4	1946	25.4	1947	25.4	1948	25.4	1949	25.4	1950	25.4	1951	25.4	1952	25.4	1953	25.4	1954	25.4	1955	25.4	1956	25.4	1957	25.4	1958	25.4	1959	25.4	1960	25.4	1961	25.4	1962	25.4	1963	25.4	1964	25.4	1965	25.4	1966	25.4	1967	25.4	1968	25.4	1969	25.4	1970	25.4	1971	25.4	1972	25.4	1973	25.4	1974	25.4	1975	25.4	1976	25.4	1977	25.4	1978	25.4	1979	25.4	1980	25.4	1981	25.4	1982	25.4	1983	25.4	1984	25.4	1985	25.4	1986	25.4	1987	25.4	1988	25.4	1989	25.4	1990	25.4	1991	25.4	1992	25.4	1993	25.4	1994	25.4	1995	25.4	1996	25.4	1997	25.4	1998	25.4	1999	25.4	2000	25.4	2001	25.4	2002	25.4	2003	25.4	2004	25.4	2005	25.4	2006	25.4	2007	25.4	2008	25.4	2009	25.4	2010	25.4	2011	25.4	2012	25.4	2013	25.4	2014	25.4	2015	25.4	2016	25.4	2017	25.4	2018	25.4	2019	25.4	2020	25.4	2021	25.4	2022	25.4	2023	25.4	2024	25.4	2025	25.4	2026	25.4	2027	25.4	2028	25.4	2029	25.4	2030	25.4	2031	25.4	2032	25.4	2033	25.4	2034	25.4	2035	25.4	2036	25.4	2037	25.4	2038	25.4	2039	25.4	2040	25.4	2041	25.4	2042	25.4	2043	25.4	2044	25.4	2045	25.4	2046	25.4	2047	25.4	2048	25.4	2049	25.4	2050	25.4	2051	25.4	2052	25.4	2053	25.4	2054	25.4	2055	25.4	2056	25.4	2057	25.4	2058	25.4	2059	25.4	2060	25.4	2061	25.4	2062	25.4	2063	25.4	2064	25.4	2065	25.4	2066	25.4	2067	25.4	2068	25.4	2069	25.4	2070	25.4	2071	25.4	2072	25.4	2073	25.4	2074	25.4	2075	25.4	2076	25.4	2077	25.4	2078	25.4	2079	25.4	2080	25.4	2081	25.4	2082	25.4	2083	25.4	2084	25.4	2085	25.4	2086	25.4	2087	25.4	2088	25.4	2089	25.4	2090	25.4	2091	25.4	2092	25.4	2093	25.4	2094	25.4	2095	25.4	2096	25.4	2097	25.4	2098	25.4	2099	25.4	2100	25.4	2101	25.4	2102	25.4	2103	25.4	2104	25.4	2105	25.4	2106	25.4	2107	25.4	2108	25.4	2109	25.4	2110	25.4	2111	25.4	2112	25.4	2113	25.4	2114	25.4	2115	25.4	2116	25.4	2117	25.4	2118	25.4	2119	25.4	2120	25.4	2121	25.4	2122	25.4	2123	25.4	2124	25.4	2125	25.4	2126	25.4	2127	25.4	2128	25.4	2129	25.4	2130	25.4	2131	25.4	2132	25.4	2133	25.4	2134	25.4	2135	25.4	2136	25.4	2137	25.4	2138	25.4	2139	25.4	2140	25.4	2141	25.4	2142	25.4	2143	25.4	2144	25.4	2145	25.4	2146	25.4	2147	25.4	2148	25.4	2149	25.4	2150	25.4	2151	25.4	2152	25.4	2153	25.4	2154	25.4	2155	25.4	2156	25.4	2157	25.4	2158	25.4	2159	25.4	2160	25.4	2161	25.4	2162	25.4	2163	25.4	2164	25.4	2165	25.4	2166	25.4	2167	25.4	2168	25.4	2169	25.4	2170	25.4	2171	25.4	2172	25.4	2173	25.4	2174	25.4	2175	25.4	2176	25.4	2177	25.4	2178	25.4	2179	25.4	2180	25.4	2181	25.4	2182	25.4	2183	25.4	2184	25.4	2185	25.4	2186	25.4	2187	25.4	2188	25.4	2189	25.4	2190	25.4	2191	25.4	2192	25.4	2193	25.4	2194	25.4	2195	25.4	2196	25.4	2197	25.4	2198	25.4	2199	25.4	2200	25.4	2201	25.4	2202	25.4	2203	25.4	2204	25.4	2205	25.4	2206	25.4	2207	25.4	2208	25.4	2209	25.4	2210	25.4	2211	25.4	2212	25.4	2213	25.4	2214	25.4	2215	25.4	2216	25.4	2217	25.4	2218	25.4	2219	25.4	2220	25.4	2221	25.4	2222	25.4	2223	25.4	2224	25.4	2225	25.4	2226	25.4	2227	25.4	2228	25.4	2229	25.4	2230	25.4	2231	25.4	2232	25.4	2233	25.4	2234	25.4	2235	25.4	2236	25.4	2237	25.4	2238	25.4	2239	25.4	2240	25.4	2241	25.4	2242	25.4	2243	25.4	2244	25.4	2245	25.4	2246	25.4	2247	25.4	2248	25.4	2249	25.4	2250	25.4	2251	25.4	2252	25.4	2253	25.4	2254	25.4	2255	25.4	2256	25.4	2257	25.4	2258	25.4	2259	25.4	2260	25.4	2261	25.4	2262	25.4	2263	25.4	2264	25.4	2265	25.4	2266	25.4	2267	25.4	2268	25.4	2269	25.4	2270	25.4	2271	25.4	2272	25.4	2273	25.4	2274	25.4	2275	25.4	2276	25.4	2277	25.4	2278	25.4	2279	25.4	2280	25.4	2281	25.4	2282	25.4	2283	25.4	2284	25.4	2285	25.4	2286	25.4	2287	25.4	2288	25.4	2289	25.4	2290	25.4	2291	25.4	2292	25.4	2293	25.4	2294	25.4	2295	25.4	2296	25.4	2297	25.4	2298	25.4	2299	25.4	2300	25.4	2301	25.4	2302	25.4	2303	25.4	2304	25.4	2305	25.4	2306	25.4	2307	25.4	2308	25.4	2309	25.4	2310	25.4	2311	25.4	2312	25.4	2313	25.4	2314	25.4	2315	25.4	2316	25.4	2317	25.4	2318	25.4	2319	25.4	2320	25.4	2321	25.4	2322	25.4	2323	25.4	2324	25.4	2325	25.4	2326	25.4	2327	25.4	2328	25.4	2329	25.4	2330	25.4	2331	25.4	2332	25.4	2333	25.4	2334	25.4	2335	25.4	2336	25.4	2337	25.4	2338	25.4	2339	25.4	2340	25.4	2341	25.4	2342	25.4	2343	25.4	2344	25.4	2345	25.4	2346	25.4	2347	25.4	2348	25.4	2349	25.4	2350	25.4	2351	25.4	2352	25.4	2353	25.4	2354	25.4	2355	25.4	2356	25.4	2357	25.4	2358	25.4	2359	25.4	2360	25.4	2361	25.4	2362	25.4	2363	25.4	2364	25.4	2365	25.4	2366	25.4	2367	25.4	2368	25.4	2369	25.4	2370	25.4	2371	25.4	2372	25.4	2373	25.4	2374	25.4	2375	25.4	2376	25.4	2377	25.4	2378	25.4	2379	25.4	2380	25.4	2381	25.4	2382	25.4	2383	25.4	2384	25.4	2385	25.4	2386	25.4	2387	25.4	2388	25.4	2389	25.4	2390	25.4	2391	25.4	2392	25.4	2393	25.4	2394	25.4	2395	25.4	2396	25.4	2397	25.4	2398	25.4	2399	25.4	2400	25.4	2401	25.4	2402	25.4	2403	25.4	2404	25.4	2405	25.4	2406	25.4	2407	25.4	2408	25.4	2409	25.4	2410	25.4	2411	25.4	2412	25.4	2413	25.4	2414	25.4	2415	25.4	2416	25.4	2417	25.4	2418	25.4	2419	25.4	2420	25.4	2421	25.4	2422	25.4	2423	25.4	2424	25.4	2425	25.4	2426	25.4	2427	25.4	2428	25.4	2429	25.4	2430	25.4	2431	25.4	2432	25.4	2433	25.4	2434	25.4	2435	25.4	2436	25.4	2437	25.4	2438	25.4	2439	25.4	2440	25.4	2441	25.4	2442	25.4	2443	25.4	2444	25.4	2445	25.4	2446	25.4	2447	25.4	2448	25.4	2449	25.4	2450	25.4	2451	25.4	2452	25.4	2453	25.4	2454	25.4	2455	25.4	2456	25.4	2457	25.4	2458	25.4	2459	25.4	2460	25.4	2461	25.4	2462	25.4	2463	25.4	2464	25.4	2465	25.4	2466	25.4	2467	25.4	2468	25.4	2469	25.4	2470	25.4	2471	25.4	2472	25.4	2473	25.4	2474	25.4	2475	25.4	2476	25.4	2477	25.4	2478	25.4	2479	25.4	2480	25.4	2481	25.4	2482	25.4	2483	25.4	2484	25.4	2485	25.4	2486	25.4	2487	25.4	2488	25.4	2489	25.4	2490	25.4	2491	25.4	2492	25.4	2493	25.4	2494	25.4	2495	25.4	2496	25.4	2497	25.4	2498	25.4	2499	25.4	2500	25.4	2501	25.4	2502	25.4	2503	25.4	2504	25.4	2505	25.4	2506	25.4	2507	25.4	2508	25.4	2509	25.4	2510	25.4	2511	25.4	2512	25.4	2513	25.4	2514	25.4	2515	25.4	2516	25.4	2517	25.4	2518	25.4	2519	25.4	2520	25.4	2521	25.4	2522	25.4	2523	25.4	2524	25.4	2525	25.4	2526	25.4	2527	25.4	2528	25.4	2529	25.4	2530	25.4	2531	25.4	2532	25.4	2533	25.4	2534	25.4	2535	25.4	2536	25.4	2537	25.4	2538	25.4	2539	25.4	2540	25.4	2541	25.4	2542	25.4	2543	25.4	2544	25.4	2545	25.4	2546	25.4	2547	25.4	2548	25.4	2549	25.4	2550	25.4	2551	25.4	2552	25.4	2553	25.4	2554	25.4	2555	25.4	2556	25.4	2557	25.4	2558	25.4	2559	25.4	2560	25.4	2561	25.4	2562	25.4	2563	25.4	2564	25.4	2565	25.4	2566	25.4	2567	25.4	2568	25.4	2569	25.4	2570	25.4	2571	25.4	2572	25.4	2573	25.4	2574	25.4	2575	25.4	2576	25.4	2577	25.4	2578	25.4	2579	25.4	2580	25.4	2581	25.4	2582	25.4	2583	25.4	2584	25.4	2585	25.4	2586	25.4	2587	25.4	2588	25.4	2589	25.4	2590	25.4	2591	25.4	2592	25.4	2593	25.4	2594	25.4	2595	25.4	2596	25.4	2597	25.4	2598	25.4	2599	25.4	2600	25.4	2601	25.
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-----

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603
150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603
150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603
150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														

[illegible][illegible]

112	122	132	142	152	162	172	182	192	202	212	222	232	242	252	262	272	282	292	302	312	322	332	342	352	362	372	382	392	402	412	422	432	442	452	462	472	482	492	502	512	522	532	542	552	562	572	582	592	602	612	622	632	642	652	662	672	682	692	702	712	722	732	742	752	762	772	782	792	802	812	822	832	842	852	862	872	882	892	902	912	922	932	942	952	962	972	982	992	1002	1012	1022	1032	1042	1052	1062	1072	1082	1092	1102	1112	1122	1132	1142	1152	1162	1172	1182	1192	1202	1212	1222	1232	1242	1252	1262	1272	1282	1292	1302	1312	1322	1332	1342	1352	1362	1372	1382	1392	1402	1412	1422	1432	1442	1452	1462	1472	1482	1492	1502	1512	1522	1532	1542	1552	1562	1572	1582	1592	1602	1612	1622	1632	1642	1652	1662	1672	1682	1692	1702	1712	1722	1732	1742	1752	1762	1772	1782	1792	1802	1812	1822	1832	1842	1852	1862	1872	1882	1892	1902	1912	1922	1932	1942	1952	1962	1972	1982	1992	2002	2012	2022	2032	2042	2052	2062	2072	2082	2092	2102	2112	2122	2132	2142	2152	2162	2172	2182	2192	2202	2212	2222	2232	2242	2252	2262	2272	2282	2292	2302	2312	2322	2332	2342	2352	2362	2372	2382	2392	2402	2412	2422	2432	2442	2452	2462	2472	2482	2492	2502	2512	2522	2532	2542	2552	2562	2572	2582	2592	2602	2612	2622	2632	2642	2652	2662	2672	2682	2692	2702	2712	2722	2732	2742	2752	2762	2772	2782	2792	2802	2812	2822	2832	2842	2852	2862	2872	2882	2892	2902	2912	2922	2932	2942	2952	2962	2972	2982	2992	3002	3012	3022	3032	3042	3052	3062	3072	3082	3092	3102	3112	3122	3132	3142	3152	3162	3172	3182	3192	3202	3212	3222	3232	3242	3252	3262	3272	3282	3292	3302	3312	3322	3332	3342	3352	3362	3372	3382	3392	3402	3412	3422	3432	3442	3452	3462	3472	3482	3492	3502	3512	3522	3532	3542	3552	3562	3572	3582	3592	3602	3612	3622	3632	3642	3652	3662	3672	3682	3692	3702	3712	3722	3732	3742	3752	3762	3772	3782	3792	3802	3812	3822	3832	3842	3852	3862	3872	3882	3892	3902	3912	3922	3932	3942	3952	3962	3972	3982	3992	4002	4012	4022	4032	4042	4052	4062	4072	4082	4092	4102	4112	4122	4132	4142	4152	4162	4172	4182	4192	4202	4212	4222	4232	4242	4252	4262	4272	4282	4292	4302	4312	4322	4332	4342	4352	4362	4372	4382	4392	4402	4412	4422	4432	4442	4452	4462	4472	4482	4492	4502	4512	4522	4532	4542	4552	4562	4572	4582	4592	4602	4612	4622	4632	4642	4652	4662	4672	4682	4692	4702	4712	4722	4732	4742
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

[illegible]

er switch and

THE FACTS

Market cap: £8 billion
Pre-tax profit: £235 million
Total gross premiums: £2.25 billion
Shareholders' funds: £4.9 billion
Employees: 42,350

THE BOARD

Richard Harvey, 46, the newly installed chief executive, took over this month from Allan Bridgewater, soon to become chairman of Swiss Re (UK). Mr Bridgewater, 60, cleared Norwich Union to flotation before retiring. He was appointed CBE in the New Year's Honours.

Mr Harvey qualified as an actuary with Phoenix Insurance in 1975, after reading mathematics at Manchester University, and later joined Sun Alliance, running the group's subsidiary in New Zealand. He did the same for Norwich Union, before returning to the UK in 1993. Non-executive chairman is George Paul, 57, who stepped down in September as chairman of Harisons & Crosfield, now reinventing itself as a chemicals group called Elements. Mr Paul this month joined the board of The Fleming Overseas Investment Trust.

Non-executive directors include Dr Elizabeth Vallance, wife of Sir Iain, the BT chairman, and chairman of St George's Healthcare NHS Trust. Recently retired as a director of HMV Group, Dr Vallance is visiting Professor in Politics at the University of London. Andrew Buxton (not his Barclays namesake) is a former director of RTZ, now Rio Tinto, and previously sat on the board of Bakyrinik Gold. Francis Cator, a non-executive director since 1976, was joint vice-chairman of J Henry Schroder Wagg until 1987, and is former deputy chairman of Anglian Water. Bryan Bessent is a director of Royal Ordnance and Fleming Overseas Investment Trust, while David Keyes, 63, is a former main board director of Morgan Grenfell. He is chairman of HFC Bank and deputy chairman of Tilbury Douglas. Sir Michael Partridge, 61, is director of the Stationery Office, and chairman of Middlesex University. Jonathan Peel, 69, is chairman of the Broad's Authority and deputy chairman of the National Trust Council, and Alan Parle, 48, is finance director of Whitbread. He is a non-executive director of Bric Holdings, and sits on the CBI's Economic Affairs Committee.

Norwich Union plc may be only six months old, but the mutual insurer that floated on the stock market in June has 200 years of history to its name. Few in the industry expect it to remain in its present form for another hundred years.

In a market sector that has seen rapid consolidation, and with continued speculation that the bigger banks remain keen to acquire their own insurance company, Norwich Union is seen as an attractive, albeit currently expensive, target. In its favour, it has a strong brand name, but potential buyers may be discouraged by its exposure to competitive overseas markets such as Australia and France.

Half the company's 12,000-strong UK workforce is in Norwich, a thriving market town in 1797 when Thomas Bignold, a 36-year-old businessman, founded The Norwich Union Society for the Insurance of Houses, Stock and Merchandise from Fire.

Norwich was largely built of wood, and the threat to homes and property was tangible. Many of the earliest Norwich Union policyholders were small traders and householders.

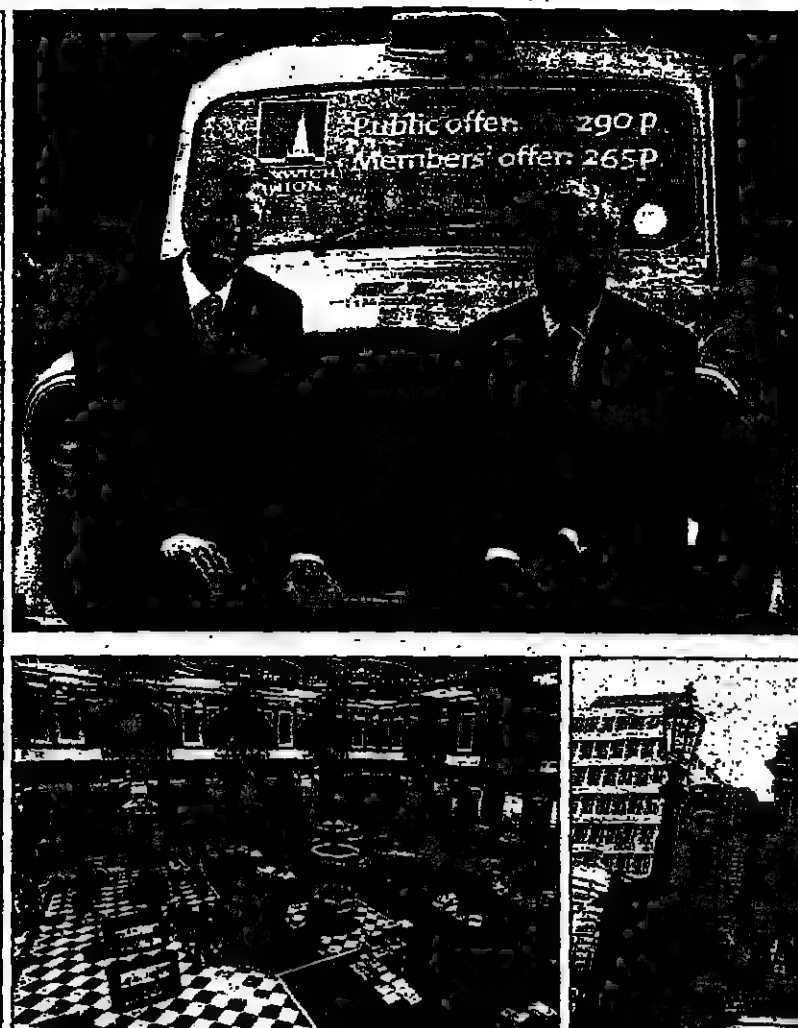
By 1804 Norwich Union had some insured in excess of £3 million, and 50 agents across Norfolk, Suffolk and Kent. In 1808 a severe winter brought widespread suffering and loss of life, prompting Mr Bignold to establish a life society. By 1897, the Norwich Union Life Society had become a major international operation.

The possibility of converting from mutual to plc was first mooted in 1970, but decided against. The company continued to grow and by 1986 total worldwide funds exceeded £10 billion for the first time, making Norwich Union probably the largest single investor in property in Britain. The deep recession of the early 1990s drastically reduced investment yields and hit Norwich Union's property portfolio.

Restructuring and cost-cutting paved the way for last June's stock market flotation, which saw the members' share offer almost four times oversubscribed. The public share offer was more than ten times subscribed by institutional investors.

Today, long-term life business has far outstripped general insurance at Norwich Union, providing £1.4 billion in premium income, compared with £829 million. Recent market attention has focused on the likelihood of a takeover bid from a large predator, Halifax, Barclays, AMP of Australia, and a

CORPORATE PROFILE



Richard Harvey, left, and Allan Bridgewater successfully brought Norwich Union, which is heavily exposed to motor insurance, to market last June, 200 years after it was founded in Norwich. The city's cathedral adorns NU's logo and the headquarters, with its ornate marble hall, is still sited there

number of continental insurers have been cited as possible buyers.

The drawback for potential bidders is the company's combination of life and general insurance business. Before making an approach, a suitor would need to decide which part of the business it wanted to keep, as few companies — perhaps with the exception of Barclays — would want both parts. If the life business was kept and the general insurance business was sold off, how could the brand name be shared between the two? Trying to sell part of the business without the benefit of the brand name would probably lead to a compromise on price.

Norwich Union has a varied business portfolio, unlike pure life companies such as Scottish Amicable, which was bought by Prudential last year. It has life and pensions products, a healthcare division, heavy exposure to the UK motor insurance market, a household

insurance division and some interests overseas.

Investment in the Irish Republic has paid off but Australia, Spain and France have proved tougher. Analysts believe that in the next few years it will need to decide whether to pour lots of new money into these territories or sell out.

Meanwhile, the motor mar-

ket in the UK is still highly competitive and although the biggest player, Direct Line, has seen its profits bounce back, its smaller rivals are still attempting to hit critical mass by undercutting prices.

Premium rates have held relatively steady on the home insurance front, since customers tend to shop around less for the best rates — in contrast

with motor insurance. On the life side, Norwich Union benefits from a strong brand name, although whether this will survive the transition to plc remains to be seen. Norwich Union favoured conversion since it gave it access to capital, and would allow it to invest in more exciting ways. Six months on, it is too early to say whether that aim is being achieved.

Analysts are impressed with the company's management, in particular Richard Harvey, the new and youthful chief executive. One analyst said: "He has firm control of the company and a good understanding of its finances. We are looking forward to seeing the company improve further under his direction."

Mr Harvey, 46, replaced Allan Bridgewater, a colourful and well-known figure both in Norwich and in the world of insurance, who decided to retire once he had helped to steer the mutual

through the conversion process.

Competition is particularly intense in the field of healthcare. FFP, the UK's second largest private medical insurer, has just agreed a deal with Guardian Royal Exchange under which it will effectively receive new capital for investment and growth into new markets. Bupa, the market leader, has been introducing new products, and still dominates private healthcare in the UK.

Norwich Union has the support of the leading institutions, although some feel there is still considerable fat to be shed. Restructuring, cost reductions and new disciplines did much to lick the insurer into shape before flotation. There is also a small army of small shareholders, who inherited shares on conversion, and have seen their holdings rise nearly 30 per cent since the shares began trading, after an initially dull patch. The shares closed at 415p on Friday, compared with the institutional

strike price on flotation of 290p.

Banks are looking for strongly branded companies whose products are sold through independent financial advisers.

Norwich Union, because of its mix of general and life business, is not quite as attractive as companies such as Legal & General, Standard Life, Scottish Widows and Scottish Equitable, Friends Provident or NPL.

Long term, Norwich Union will be well-placed to cash in on the new individual savings account, which the Government is proposing to introduce — assuming it clings to its independence. Further opportunities lie in the general increased demand for life and savings products. The industry is set for continued growth, as more people realise that they will not be able to rely on state help in their old age.

Norwich Union is only modestly successful in the expression of its ethical principles, according to Integrity Works, our independent consultant. The staff code of business conduct contains a rather predictable list of principles — better conveyed than most, though less comprehensive than the best.

The company published a code of conduct to tie in with its flotation, and monitors it through "normal management reporting" systems. The challenge for financial services companies such as Norwich Union is to ensure these systems are robust enough to keep ethical principles foremost in managers' minds.

Absence of data makes it hard to tell what Norwich Union directors are currently paid. Based on past experience, they are likely to be thin cats, according to Crisp Consulting, which found Mr Bridgewater to be about 70 per cent underpaid in 1996, earning £468,000, when he should have been on £1.7 million. Too late now.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Ethical expression	4/10
Pay-out quotient	9/10
Financial record	3/10
Share performance	8/10
Attitude to employees	8/10
Strength of brand	10/10
Innovation	6/10
Annual report	5/10
City star rating	6/10
Future prospects	7/10
Total	65/100

Ethical Works is a company in which David Thomson pays no remuneration. The latest question, in which David Thomson pays no remuneration, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

Millennium bug fear for factories

By CHRIS AYNES

BRITAIN faces the risk of major industrial disasters because companies are failing to realise that the millennium bug threatens plant machinery as well as IT systems. Although many businesses are beginning to tackle the threat in their computer sys-

tems, PA Consulting Group says that most businesses are still ignoring the danger posed by the "embedded" devices within industrial plants and other machinery.

The firm's survey of more than 300 UK manufacturing and process companies shows that only a third have set aside a budget to look at the prob-

lem. Less than a quarter have undertaken a full audit. One multinational chemicals company responded to the survey by saying: "We would be amazed if there is not a major chemical disaster somewhere caused by year 2000 problems with embedded software."

PA Consulting said: "Senior managers who are not plan-

ning seriously and acting now to achieve millennium-readiness for embedded software in their products, processes and infrastructures are failing in their duty to shareholders, customers and employees."

"Time is running out for many companies to take corrective action and their organisations are at risk."

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6385 (+0.0218)
German mark 2.9605 (+0.0514)
Exchange index 105.1 (+1.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 3327.0 (+5.4)
FTSE 100 5283.1 (+124.8)
New York Dow Jones 7753.55 (+173.13)
Tokyo Nikkei Avege 16046.45 (+1051.35)

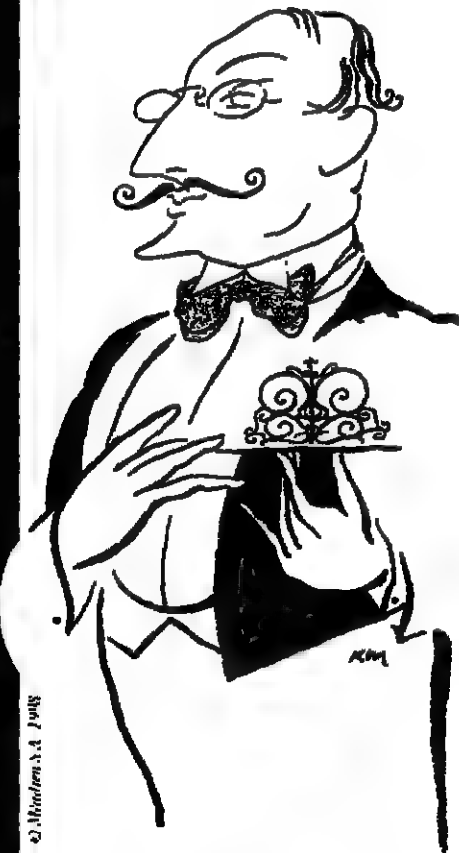
FOREIGN EXCHANGE

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.57	2.59	
Austria Sch	21.96	20.30	
Belgium Fr	64.82	59.86	
Canada \$	2.483	2.281	
Cyprus Cyp	0.919	0.847	
Denmark Kr	11.96	11.07	
Finland Mk	9.98	8.88	
France Fr	10.47	9.69	
Germany Dm	3.15	2.91	
Greece Dr	497	459	
Hong Kong \$	13.48	12.28	
Iceland	131	111	
Ireland Pt	2.24	1.15	
Israel Sh	6.29	5.84	
Italy Lira	2116	2879	
Japan Yen	225.13	207.60	
Malay	0.694	0.652	
Netherlands Gld	3.556	3.281	
New Zealand \$	2.93	2.69	
Norway Kr	12.85	11.59	
Portugal Esc	317.53	295.50	
S Africa Rd	8.82	7.96	
Spain Ps	264.29	245.50	
Sweden Kr	13.97	12.51	
Switzerland Fr	2.69	2.57	
Turkey Lira	366.89	302.92	
USA \$	1.741	1.598	

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

Two nights for the price of one.
At Le Méridien.

Le Méridien invites you to enjoy two nights for the price of one, any weekend, anywhere in Europe. As a bonus, throughout the month of January 1998, continental breakfast is complimentary. So for your next European leisure break, think Le Weekend, and reserve at your Le Méridien reservation centre, specifying "2 for 1 M".
Telephone: 0800 404040.



Le
MERIDIEN
HOTELS & RESORTS

OVER 30 HOTELS IN EUROPE INCLUDING:
ALGARVE, AMSTERDAM, ATHENS, BARCELONA,
BRUSSELS, COLOGNE, CYPRUS, DUBLIN, FIUGGI,
FRANKFURT, GENEVA, HAMBURG, HANNOVER,
LISBON, LONDON, LYON, MADRID, MALTA,
MANCHESTER, MILAN, MONTE CARLO,
MOSCOW, NICE, NUREMBERG, OPORTO,
PARIS, ROME, SARDINIA, TURIN, WARSAW

A DIVISION OF FORTE HOTELS

FLY HALFE

AIR FRANCE

Starting in next Monday's Times, fly with Air France to almost any destination around the world with up to 50% off.

CHANGING TIMES

Accountants
the further
investigation
merger

Group effect lift

former BZW chi
in Deutsche Ba



Asian crisis unlikely to cause recession

The question on many minds is whether Asia will take the world into recession or, worse, depression. Our judgement is that a recession is possible, but a depression is highly unlikely. That said, Asia does seem set to slow the world economy significantly.

Economic slowdown seems likely to come through two principal channels: one involving trade and the other financial linkages. Of the two, the first is probably the better understood.

We guess that the collapse of confidence in Korea and the Asian countries will result in their domestic demand falling by about 10 per cent this year, much as in Mexico in 1995 and Turkey in 1994. Overall, we have revised down 1998 domestic demand growth in Asia by six percentage points from its pre-crisis rate.

Such a slowdown, by reducing

Asia's import growth, reduces export growth and thereby GDP growth elsewhere. Surging Asian imports together with plunging export growth will compound that effect. All in all, we estimate that, through the trade mechanism, Asia stands to reduce world economic growth this year by a third, from 3 per cent to perhaps 2 per cent.

But then there is the financial risk. To the extent that Asian stock market collapses weaken confidence elsewhere, this further reduces spending. This effect will be compounded if Asian business and financial entities default on, or delay repayment of, their loans, weakening the balance sheets of

banks abroad and obliging them to reduce their lending.

Naturally enough, the 1920s and 1930s are being cited as the closest parallel, although there are important differences. In the 1920s:

□ Statistics were generally poor. Economies could be in recession before anyone knew it. Data did not cover the right economic variables, and came out late. Today economic data are more appropriate, more timely, and better.

□ Macroeconomic understanding was weak. Macroeconomics, as it is now understood, scarcely existed in the 1920s. Today there is a somewhat better understanding of aggregate demand policy, as

well as the importance of international trade and financial linkages.

□ Monetary policy was faulty. There was no system of deposit insurance, and central bank failure to inject liquidity resulted in widespread bank failures.

□ Government expenditure was tiny. Today it is much larger, and hard to reduce. In good times this can be a problem, but in bad times it can provide a welcome floor when private sector expenditure is contracting.

□ Protectionism was spreading worldwide. This exacerbated the situation, probably fatally. Such is not the situation today — not yet, anyway.

The US was not willing, and the UK not able, to play an international role. Today, however, the US economy is large and strong, and the US is acting as a decisive world economic leader.

□ There was no effective global body. The only global organisation was the almost wholly ineffective League of Nations, to which the US did not even belong. Today, there are the IMF, the World Bank and the OECD. While not perfect, they represent a reservoir of experience and analytical expertise, and a forum where governments can discuss problems, decide upon remedial action, and indeed implement it.

□ Deflation had been longstanding. Some countries had a long-

standing deflationary tendency, caused not by benign supply-side improvements but by a malign deficiency of aggregate demand. Today this is not the case.

Unfortunately there are also some less encouraging factors. Although it is true that the understanding of how economies work has improved greatly since the 1950s, forecasting errors tend to get large, to the extent of becoming qualitatively misleading, when the world is subjected to shocks that are both large and novel.

The first oil price shock, in 1973-74, was a case in point. This was large and so novel that economists applied the wrong type of analysis to it. We now appreciate, but did not at the time, that at root what

the world was facing was a supply-side shock. But we analysed it — and policy was made on the basis of that analysis — as if it were a demand-side shock.

Such experience should suggest humility in prophesying what the fallout from Asia will be. For the Asian shock qualifies as large and, most worryingly, as rather novel, in that whereas most economic crises are sparked by government excess, this one was sparked by private sector excess.

Taking all these considerations into account, we conclude, cautiously, that full-blown world recession is not particularly likely, if only because that would require a number of badly wrong policy moves. And that seems unlikely. But it could happen.

JOHN LLEWELLYN
Global chief economist
at Lehman Brothers

Accountants face further investigation into merger

By ROBERT BRUCE

PRICE WATERHOUSE and Coopers & Lybrand look increasingly likely to have to wait until at least the end of May for the regulatory approval necessary for them to go ahead with the merger that will create the world's largest accountancy practice.

Disturbed by the increasing number of hostile submissions on the proposed deal, European regulatory authorities are expected to announce this week that they want to carry out a second round of investigations into possible consequences. The European Commission could even opt to hold oral hearings on the proposed merger.

The US Justice Department has also decided to delay its decision. The department had been expected to rule on the merger before the European decision was made, but it has decided to postpone deliberations because it believes that a common front is required.

The merger is encountering fierce opposition on both sides of the Atlantic. The Department of Trade and Industry and the Bank of England have both raised doubts, and the smallest of the existing big six accounting firms, Deloitte & Touche, has put in a submission that has been described as robust and aggressive.

In the European parliament, there have been calls for the commission to insist that the number of large international accounting firms should not be allowed to drop below five.

Meanwhile, in the US Sen-

ate, the anti-trust sub-committee has decided to hold hearings on the issue of mergers.

Smaller accounting firms, and some large companies, fear that further consolidation among the international accountants will restrict competition and choice for audit and other services. Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand have suggested that their merger is intended to help them to better serve their clients.

Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand are still trying to come up with a name for the combined firm. In addition, they have yet to agree who will be the global heads of the various service lines in the new firm.

Rumour has it that what started out as a joke suggestion could become reality. Early in the process Price Waterhouse partners joked that the new name would be "PriceWaterhouse & Co.", with the "& Co" bit representing the Coopers contribution. But the partners are increasingly thinking that the name used since the late 19th century has the required gravitas and would reflect continuity.

Coopers & Lybrand partners would be unhappy. But as a Price Waterhouse spokesman said: "Whatever you do some people will not like it."

The second proposed merger of accounting firms, between KPMG and Ernst & Young, is following the same regulatory procedures but lagging by some weeks.



Marjorie Scardino is fielding offers to buy Pearson's Future Publishing magazines business in the wake of Reed Elsevier's recent auction of IPC

Sky News faces challenge from 24-hour BBC channel

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

A THIRD cable network is considering dropping Sky News in favour of BBC News 24, its recently launched rival. Cable London, a 50-50 joint venture between Comcast and Telewest, has written to more than 82,000 subscribers suggesting that it is thinking about dropping Sky News.

Birmingham Cable, in which Comcast is also a shareholder, has already said it will stop transmitting Sky News to its 120,000 subscribers on February 1. General Cable has already removed the channel.

Cable London's letter, seeking subscriber views, praises the "early success" of News 24, the BBC's round-the-clock channel. It notes, too, that Sky News has offered an excellent service for some time.

But Cable London says it has decided that it is not sensible to run two UK-based 24-hour news channels. Frank Mizen, sales and marketing director, says in the letter: "We are looking at the possibility of ceasing to broadcast Sky News." Both Cable & Wireless Communications, the largest

cable company, and Telewest, the second largest, are expected to continue transmitting Sky News, the British Sky Broadcasting service.

BSkyB, in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, has accused the BBC of predatory pricing by giving News 24, which cost £30 million to set up, free to cable companies. Sky News charges them 49p a month per subscriber. The BBC argues that, as licence payers, cable subscribers have already paid for News 24.

Allied Domecq in search of partner

By DOMINIC WALSH

ALLIED DOMEQ, the drinks and retailing group, has initiated talks with some of the world's biggest drinks companies as it seeks to respond to the threat posed by the merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan to form Diageo.

Tony Hales, chief executive, favours a deal with Seagram, of Canada, but he is also pursuing the possibility of deals with Brown Forman, of the US, and the French rival, Pernod Ricard. A merger with Seagram would put together the number two and three players in the world, combin-

ing Allied brands such as Beefeater gin with Seagram's Mumm Champagne.

A source close to Allied said: "Clearly the Diageo merger has implications for Allied Domecq. Everybody is talking to everybody and it would be a dereliction of duty if it weren't involved."

In the case of Seagram, the most likely outcome would be a merger of the two companies' drinks businesses, with Allied retaining its pub and fast-food businesses and Seagram hanging on to its MCA entertainment division.

Pearson may sell magazine business

By DOMINIC WALSH

PEARSON, the media group, is to seek offers for Future Publishing, its consumer magazines business, after receiving approaches in the wake of Reed Elsevier's recent auction for IPC.

Marjorie Scardino, chief executive, is thought to have appointed an investment bank to handle a possible auction, which analysts believe could raise up to £150 million. Pearson declined to comment, but industry sources confirmed that the company would sell the business at the right price.

Cirven, whose hefty £860 million purchase of IPC has revived interest in the consumer magazines sector, is considered a possible bidder alongside rival venture capitalists such as Apax and Electra Fleming.

One possibility is a management buyout led by Nick Alexander, head of Pearson New Entertainment and the man behind Future Publishing's rapid expansion of recent years.

A figure of £150 million would represent a good price for a business that was acquired for just over £50 million in 1994, since when Pearson has spent about £10 million on bolt-on acquisitions. Future Publishing, which makes a profit of about £12 million a year, specialises in titles in computing, sport, crafts and music. Its best-selling titles include *Classic CD* and *Total Football*. Recent acquisitions include *Music Maker*.

Pearson could use the proceeds to expand its other media interests, which include the *Financial Times*, Penguin, Longman, a 50 per cent stake in *The Economist* and 24 per cent of Channel 5. Penguin is close to a £300 million deal to buy the children's books division of Reed Elsevier.

Trade-up effect lifts supermarkets

By FRASER NELSON

SALES of ciabatta bread, designer make-up and unleaded petrol helped to lift supermarket turnover by 5.2 per cent to £93 billion last year, according to a report by Verdict, the retail consultancy.

Expanding the range of food to offer more expensive chilled products has allowed the big four supermarkets to steal yet more market share from independents, it says.

Tesco is named as the best

performer of last year, adding one percentage point of market share to command 16.8 per cent in 1997.

Safeway, meanwhile, continued to languish, with like-for-like sales only 0.2 per cent ahead. Verdict said that Safeway's performance seems with that of J Sainsbury, because its format is far too similar to its rival and so suffers when Sainsbury is performing well.

Clive Vaughan, one of the

authors of the report, said: "We are seeing a lot of added value from the trading-up effect. People are buying more chilled food than they are tinned carrots, they are buying sliced potatoes more than just normal ones. They are still eating the same amount of potatoes, but they are just paying more for them."

J Sainsbury has now fully recovered from its troubles of early last year, the report says, with sales volumes higher,

while prices recovered by 3.5 per cent, against overall sector price inflation of 3.2 per cent (2.9 per cent for 1996).

The Co-op stores, however, have suffered heavy margin erosion. Some observers believe that their best chance for the future will come if the group concentrates on neighbourhood stores.

Cosmetics now speak for 5.8 per cent of all supermarket sales, petrol for 5.9 per cent and clothing for 1.5 per cent.

Former BZW chief to join Deutsche Bank

By CHRIS AYRES

DEUTSCHE BANK yesterday confirmed that Bill Harrison, the former chief executive of BZW who resigned when Barclays pulled out of equity-based investment banking, is to be appointed head of its global corporate advisory business.

The appointment of Mr Harrison, 49, was leaked to the press over the weekend, even though he has not yet signed a contract. Mr Harrison is one of the City's highest earners, having picked up nearly £3 million in his last full year at BZW. It is not known whether he has agreed his remuneration package with Deutsche Bank.

Mr Harrison's decision to take the job comes only a week after Deutsche Bank revealed radical plans to shake up its global investment banking business. This will involve Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, based in London, losing its 100-year-old core name and

much of its independence. Mr Harrison is a close friend of Michael Dobson, DMG's chief executive, who has unsuccessfully tried to recruit the former BZW chief in the past.

Mr Harrison, from Birmingham and known as "Atilla the Hun" for the shake-up that he instigated in BZW, will

replace both Carter McClelland and Maurice Thompson, the co-heads of investment banking at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. Mr McClelland is likely to return to North America. The bank is still discussing possible options with Mr Thompson.

Deutsche Bank plans to combine its own corporate banking activities with those of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. It will also bring its retail and institutional asset management arms under one roof, and they are likely to be headed by Mr Dobson. The ultimate aim is to create a "wholesale bank" to rival JP Morgan, the US commercial bank that has successfully turned its hand to investment banking.

The bank hopes to finalise these plans before reporting annual results on March 30. It declined to comment on the appointment of Mr Harrison until his contract is signed.

Lloyd's to review rules on brokers

By ADAM JONES

REGULATORS at Lloyd's of London are likely this week to review the rules governing international insurance brokers.

The treatment of brokers is expected to be a priority in the insurance market's regulatory plan for 1998. Lloyd's is currently self-policing, but eventually wants to come under the jurisdiction of the new Financial Services Authority.

The Lloyd's brokers' community has undergone massive consolidation, with a handful of international brokers emerging. These firms include Sedgwick and Willis Corroon, where Lloyd's new chairman, Max Taylor, was previously employed.

A Lloyd's spokesman said: "We need to look at whether the broker rules and regulations that were established in 1983 are still valid to regulate organisations of that size." A document on that matter was published last year.



Harrison: resigned

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT	*Six months ended	*Six months ended	*Year ended
	31 Dec 1997	31 Dec 1996	30 June 1997
Revenue	8 717	1 478	1 478
Income from investments	10 274	11 384	22 369
Surplus on realisation of investments	8 717	1 478	1 478
Interest received	980	302	753
Sundry revenue	4	21	21
	19 971	13 168	24 621
Expenditure and amounts written off	2 154	2 086	31 236
Administration and general	1 472	1 311	2 573
Exploration expenses	682	775	1 271
Interest paid	-	-	1
Amount written off	-	-	17 389
Profit before tax	17 817	11 082	3 385
Tax	-	-	-
Profit after tax	17 817	11 082	3 385
Earnings per share - cents	58	36	11
Headline earnings per share - cents	58	36	68
Dividends - per share - cents	20	17	52
- absorbing - 2000	6 127	5 208	15 930
- rates covered	2.9	2.1	1.3

*Unaudited

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET	*At 31 Dec 1997	*At 31 Dec 1996	*At 30 June 1997
Investments	151 534	168 113	151 283
Properties and ventures	135	135	135
Net current assets	12 368	2 518	929
Current assets	19 500	8 374	12 469
Surplus on realisation of investments	18 015	3 862	8 058
Cash	1 485	4 512	4 411
Other	7 132	5 856	11 540
Less current liabilities	164 037	170 766	152 347
Share capital	88 425	88 425	88 425
Reserves	75 612	82 341	63 922
	164 037	170 766	152 347
Investments			
Listed - Market value	407 037	575 511	498 534
- Excess over book value	238 779	408 674	348 527
- Book value	150 258	166 837	150 007
Unlisted - directors' valuation	36 347	31 818	30 347
- Excess over book value	35 071	30 542	35 071
- Book value	1 276	1 276	1 276
Shares in issue unchanged at 30 635 201			
Net asset value per share - cents	1 488	1 991	1 749

*Unaudited

- NOTES:
- Final Dividend: Dividend No. 93 of 35 cents per share, in respect of the year ended 30 June 1997, amounting to R10 722 320, was declared on 14 August 1997 and paid on 1 October 1997.
 - Earnings: Profit after tax was boosted by a surplus of R8 717 000 on the realisation of the company's interest in Gold Fields Property Company Limited.
 - Goldfields: The resolutions in respect of the proposed sale of the company's mineral rights and participation rights pertaining to gold and its shareholdings in Drifontein Consolidated Limited and Kool Gold Mining Company Limited were passed at a general meeting of shareholders on 13 January 1998. Shareholders of the other affected companies also passed all resolutions necessary for the formation of Goldfields, which has been formally named Gold Fields Limited, at meetings on 13 January 1998. These include the scheme of arrangements in respect of Bearia Mines Limited, Kool Gold Mining Company Limited and Oryx Gold Holdings Limited. Applications to the High Court of South Africa (Pretoria Local Division) for the sanction of these schemes will be made on 27 January 1998 and shareholders will be advised by way of a press announcement on 30 January 1998 of the results of the sale of the assets referred to above should the transactions be implemented. This will result in a significant increase in profits after tax for the year to June 1998 relative to the previous financial year.
 - Prospectus: The company will release substantial portions of the sale of the assets referred to above should the transactions be implemented. This will result in a significant increase in profits after tax for the year to June 1998 relative to the previous financial year.

DECLARATION OF INTERIM DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 94 of 20 cents per share has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 6 February 1998. Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 4 March 1998 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 3 March 1998.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable from the share transfer office and the London office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 7 February to 13 February 1998, inclusive.

75 Fox Street
Johannesburg
2001

16 January 1998



On behalf of the board:
J.G. Hopwood
(Chairman)
L.S. Blackie

Directors

http://www.goldfields.co.za

WTO chief ready to sound rallying cry for free trade

Janet Bush finds former diplomat using all his guile to fight protectionism

The world economy has a way of springing unpleasant surprises at just the point when the great and good allow themselves to indulge in public self-congratulation. In October 1994, at the fiftieth anniversary annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Madrid, the stage-managed triumphalism degenerated into the nastiest row for years as the world's poor nations held the industrialised elite to ransom over a new allocation of special drawing rights.

Last autumn, China hoped to use the annual meeting of the Bretton Woods institutions in Hong Kong as a chance to boost about its re-acquisition of Hong Kong and its own growing power in the world economy. But, with Far Eastern markets tumbling even as Chinese leaders swept portentously into Hong Kong, the meeting turned into an agonised session of soul-searching, picking over the remains of the Asian miracle.

In May, the World Trade Organisation is planning to celebrate 50 years of the multilateral trading system. In the wake of ground-breaking recent agreements on liberalising world markets in telecommunications, information technology and financial services, it could have been an enjoyable back-slapping session. But events in Asia threaten to put some high-risk meat on the bone of this particular anniversary party.

The wave of spectacular currency devaluations across Asia threatens the resurgence of protectionist noises, notably from America and Europe, as South-East Asia attempts to export its way out of trouble.

Renato Ruggiero, the Naples-born Director-General of the WTO, with a distinguished diplomatic career behind him, intends to turn an inauspicious backdrop to his advantage, deliberately recasting the fiftieth anniversary into a rallying cry for free trade.

In an interview with *The Times* on Friday, Mr Ruggiero revealed his intention to use an anniversary meeting in Geneva on May 20 as an excuse to challenge world leaders to make a public commitment against protectionism, just when protectionism might be most tempting.



Renato Ruggiero believes that Europe is vulnerable to a flood of cheap Asian imports

Meetings of the WTO are normally attended by trade ministers, but Mr Ruggiero wants to upgrade the meeting to heads of state level. His hope is that the leaders of the industrialised world, gathered in Birmingham on May 15-17 for a meeting of the Group of Eight, will assent to travel on to Geneva. His calculation is that, by appearing at such a high-profile event, celebrating free trade, heads of state would find it far more difficult to sign up for protectionist measures when the going gets tough.

Governments are being asked to reply to invitations by the end of this month. Mr Ruggiero's greatest prize might be the presence of

President Clinton, already beset by protectionist enemies in Congress and being urged by some of his advisers not to attend the meeting in Geneva for fear of provoking them.

An RSVP from Tony Blair is almost equally desirable. During the British presidency of the European Union, a yes from the British Prime Minister would probably ensure that other European heads of state would sign up as well.

Mr Ruggiero is careful to emphasise that the threat of protectionism is not just an American phenomenon. He believes that Europe is vulnerable to a flood of cheap Asian imports, given that Far Eastern economies have a much smaller market share in Europe than

in the US in goods such as textiles and cars. Protectionism could erupt in Europe as much as in America.

The Director-General played down the suspected existence of pockets of resistance to further liberalisation of trade within Europe. "There are different views on liberalisation in the European Union. It is not an easy situation," he said. "But the European Commission presents a common position when it visits Geneva."

Nevertheless, Mr Ruggiero betrays more concern, if anything, about the commitment of Europe to global free trade than that of America. He expresses disappointment that Europe still pays so much

attention to regional trading blocs rather than liberalisation on a global level.

"Europe is incredibly involved with a web of regional trade areas and there is a contradiction between this web and the international system," he said. "It is a dispersion of effort which undermines the European Union's ability to move on to what I believe should be the aim: a world system which includes China and Russia."

He drew a contrast with America, always painted as the protectionist bogeyman of the world economy. He said that the US is willing to play the regional trade card for domestic political consumption but, in reality, is the one world power that thinks and acts on a truly global level. "I am less worried by US regionalism than I am about European regionalism," he said.

The Director-General, a staunch supporter of the European single market and monetary union, is reluctant to acknowledge British fears of protectionism by single currency "ins" against those who choose to remain "out". But, acknowledging at least a hypothetical threat of trade barriers being erected by the ins as punishment for any attempt at competitive devaluation by the outs, he offers unequivocal WTO support.

"The WTO will offer to you the same guarantees to resist protectionism inside the EU as outside the EU," he said.

Mr Ruggiero's visit to London marked the start of a campaign to head off any protectionism in the wake of Asia's economic crisis. To hammer home his message, he invoked a parallel with the economic crisis of the 1930s. He drew a direct line of causation through the initial financial crisis, the collapse of confidence, the protectionist response in America, embodied in the Smoot-Hawley Act of 1930, and the economic and then political nationalism that eventually led to the Second World War.

He said: "My duty is to look at the lessons of history and recall that a return to protectionism would be a disaster. It would not be a solution but would aggravate the crisis and prolong its repercussions."

Mr Ruggiero expressed considerable confidence that a repeat of the 1930s is not on the cards, largely because the WTO exists with widespread support for its panoply of binding rules and its dispute procedure. He noted that 130 countries were signed up supporters with more than 30 more candidates itching to join. This compares with the 23 nations that subscribed to the first Gatt agreement. This powerful consensus would present a "formidable element of resistance" to any protectionist moves, he said.

But what of a backlash in South-East Asia to the enforced opening of its markets under International Monetary Fund conditions for billions of dollars of rescue money? The Director-General acknowledged the danger but insisted that, even in the teeth of financial crisis in December, many Asian countries were enthusiastic supporters of the agreement to liberalise financial services: even Malaysia.

Land of wealth and welfare

Compass
BBC2, 7.30pm
For the latest of her excellent background-to-the-news reports Nigella Woods moves across the Channel to France and looks at a country still determined to buck the Western trend towards free market economics. We even hear the word socialism, which is definitely not part of the vocabulary of new Labour. Woods points out that while still believing in state ownership and state enterprise, and sustaining an extensive social security system paid for by high taxes, France is ahead of Britain on most of the economic yardsticks, not least per capita wealth. Not until more than half way through the film does Woods get round to the big "but", unemployment which is running at twice the British rate. The French Government hopes to create jobs by cutting the working week. Employers are unimpressed.

The Ship
Channel 4, 8.00pm
Irene Cockcroft's six-part series chronicles the recent history of the troubled Swan Hunter shipyard on Tyneside. Essentially it is a story of the yard's Dutch owners, the shipbuilders and their attempt to introduce modern management techniques, and the shipbuilding traditions of the North East. THC took over late in 1995, just before the yard was due to be auctioned. The first big contract was the conversion of the *Solitaire* into the world's largest pipe-laying vessel. After a period of high unemployment there is the prospect of 1,200 jobs but the new management is hard-headed and industrial trouble is not long coming. Welders and platers begin a dispute over pay. Spills within the workforce, and tension between management and the ship floor, are not a good omen as the deadline for the *Solitaire* contract looms.

Heroes of Comedy
Channel 4, 9.00pm
So much has been said and written about Peter Cook recently that John Fisher's film cannot add to the canon. It can only go where the other Cook tributes have gone and celebrate a tremendous comic force that exhausted itself all



Ship workers at Swan Hunter (C4, 8pm)

too soon. As Cook's *Beyond the Fringe* colleague, Jonathan Miller, remarks, one of the tragedies of comedy is that it runs out. For Cook it ran out around 1973, witness a coarse two-hander with Dudley Moore called *Derek and Clive* which is rightly described by Miller as the dregs of a talent going nowhere. Luckily there is much better material to remember Cook by, from *Beyond the Fringe* to the glory years of *Pete and Dud* by way of *E.L. Wisty* and that classic sketch about the one-legged actor auditioning for Tarzan.

Face to Face
BBC2, 11.15pm
Knight faces knight, as Sir Jeremy Isaacs questions Sir Ian McKellen, but it is a courtly joust which produces no blood. Sir Jeremy introduces his subject by calling him one of the very great actors of our day and, in a wonderful non sequitur, asks him why he came out as a homosexual in 1988. There is nothing like getting to the point quickly but McKellen must have had years to think out the answer. As with all his responses, whether on his sexuality, his church-dominated Lancashire childhood, the early death of his mother or how he became an actor, his comments are carefully judged but evade nothing. His account of meeting John Major in Downing Street to discuss discrimination against the gay community is spiced with unmalicious humour. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Postscript Word Pictures
Radio 3, 9.45pm
The particular brief of this short programme each day this week represents all that is best about speech radio, indeed I would say that this is one of its purest expressions. Starting tonight, *Postscript* is carrying five narratives by writers who have been asked to choose a painting in the National Gallery and use it as the basis for a piece of imaginative writing. Tonight Marina Warner is the writer and the work she has chosen is Correggio's *The School of Love*. It is known that four young Japanese converts to Catholicism visited Italy in 1582 and Warner imagines one of them writing a letter to his priest back home about the pagan imagery in the painting and the youth's somewhat confused reaction to those images.

The Monday Play: A Song for Mary-Jane
Radio 4, 7.45pm
One hopes that the re-labelling exercise going on in BBC radio will not cease before something is done about the existence of *The Monday Play* and *The Monday Play*, or at least let us be told why *The Monday Play* has yet to make an appearance. But *A Song for Mary-Jane* would be welcome at any time of the day. It is the second radio play by Charlie Howe, whose first, *Drinking the Milk* two years ago, was a memorable piece about four young people in a London flat. This new one is set in a London almost entirely populated by tourists. Mary-Jane is a prostitute with no punners whose boyfriend is launched on a bizarre and dizzying trip to stardom by Mary-Jane's pimp, Cack, a tycoon for the times. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Grening and Zola 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 5.00 News 5.15 Newsbeat 6.00 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30 Live Music Update with Caroline Johnston 8.40 Andy Kershaw 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Chris Wernie 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Double Threat 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Melvyn Lacey 9.00 The Ken Bruce Band 10.00 9.30 Big Band Special 10.30 Davey Gorman 10.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00am Steve Madden 2.00 Alan Jones

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 8.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm Radio 5 on Five 4.00 Nationwide with Julian Worlock 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Dream Team 2.00 Ball Game 8.00 News 8.15 Sports Centre 8.30 The Monday Take 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Barter 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Calum Jones 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Paine

TALK RADIO

6.00am Kirsty Young Breakfast Show 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Rastburn 9.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 On the Shelf: A Night to Remember 7.30 The Village Choir Show 8.00 News 8.15 Peace for Thought 8.15 Catholicism in Crisis 8.00 News; News in German (E48 only) 8.00 World Business Report 8.15 On the Radio 8.30 Westway Access 8.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsday 10.30 On the Radio 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Jazzweekend 12.00 12.00am Newsday 12.30 Seven Days 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 What's in German 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway Access 3.30 The Boy George Collection 4.00 News 4.15 Seven Days 4.30 The World Today (E48 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Sports Roundup 5.15 World Today 5.30 World Sports Roundup 5.45 Newsday 6.00 Newsday 6.30 World Play News in German (E48 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for 7.30 Multitask Hi List 8.00 Newsday 8.00 News 8.05 World Business Report 8.15 Britain Today 8.30 Outlook 8.45 Sports Roundup 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitask Hi List 12.00 Newsday 12.30 Sports Roundup 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsday 1.30 Sports Roundup 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newsday 2.30 On Screen 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Civilization 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey Nick Bailey presents music to start the morning 8.00 Henry Kelly. Includes Record of the Week and a chance to hear Michael Barrymore's recipe for Cornish chicken and sweetened soup 12.00 Lunchtime Requests with Jane Jones 2.00pm Concerto, Haydn (Solo Concerto, No 1 in C major) 3.00 Jamie Crook. Includes Continuous Classics and Afternoon Requests 6.30 Newsday 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven with John Bunnings 8.00 Evening Concerto, Brahms (Violin Concerto, No 1 in G major) 9.00 Mozart (Piano Concerto in D; Ravel (Rhapsodie Espagnole); Richard Strauss (Ein Heldenleben) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto (1) 3.00 Mark Gribble

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, including Vivaldi (In Furca Gaudens) (Solo); Haydn (Symphony No 6 in D, La Matin); Poulenc (Le Bal Masque, Capriccio); Ravel (Daphnis and Chloe Suite No 2); Mendelssohn (Overture); The Hebrides (Rugby's Cove); Mozart (Violin Concerto No 3 in G, K265)
9.00 Masterworks. Presented by Peter Hobbay. Macdonald (Overture: The Cricket on the Hearth); Symphony No 6 in D, Le Matin; Poulenc (Le Bal Masque, Capriccio); Ravel (Daphnis and Chloe Suite No 2); Mendelssohn (Overture); The Hebrides (Rugby's Cove); Mozart (Violin Concerto No 3 in G, K265)
10.00 Artist of the Week: Robert Tear. Joan Bateman talks to Robert Tear about his early singing days and Richard Baker traces the musical love affair between Robert and Clara Schumann
12.00 Composers of the Week: Mozart and the English Mozart, with Richard Sweeney
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from St John's, Smith Square. Emma Kirby, soprano; Michael Chivers, countertenor; London Baroque under Charles Medlem. Menu: (Sonata in E-flat; Gabriel (Sonata a 3, 1615); Handel (Italian Cantata No 27: L'ungo di Men, Pensier Tronno); Schmelzer (Sonata a 3, 1682); Handel (Cantata: Arrivederci)
2.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Philharmonic. Barlow (Overture: Waverley), under Van Pascal Torfeller. (Classical) Symphony No 4 in F minor, under Vasil Simion. Saint-Saens (Piano Concerto No 2 in G minor; Britten (Peter Grimes, Passacaglia); Walton (Symphony No 2), under Van Pascal Torfeller. Cocca Cusack, piano

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.55 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.45 Beyond the Millennium. The urban planner Kevin Murray sees a future with less traffic, less crime and more quality leisure time (2/5) 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with the Times columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests
10.00 (FM) News; Big Bang. Jez Nelson looks at some new learning tools for children
10.00 (LW) Daily Service
10.15 On These Days, with Ray Gooding
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 Money Box Live. Vincent Duggan presents the latest personal finance news
12.00 News; Tea and Yoghurt with Mark Whitaker
12.30pm Counterpoint. Host line of the general knowledge music quiz hosted by Ned Sherrin, 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.15 The Archers (1) 1.25 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Slow Burn, by John Harvey. A new case for jazz-loving DI Charlie Resnick and his team. With Philip Jackson, Sean Baker and Kate Eaton
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laide Taylor
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker sees Stephen Sandheim's dramatic musical *Sweeney Todd*, staged by Opera North, and talks to the West Yorkshire Playhouse director David Kelly as she embarks on an opera production
4.45 Short Story: *Wetdown at Norovitch*, by David Kirkup, read by David Norovitch

Answers from page 30

ASSIMILADO
(a) An African in Portuguese East and West Africa who has been admitted to Portuguese citizenship. The past participant of the *Mozambique assimilation* to assimilate. "It is even possible for a Mozambique native to become a full Portuguese citizen."

GHOINT
(a) A Himalayan pony. The Hindi word. "During winter the ghoint live on the roots of the stunted bushes, and are very expert at scraping the snow from off them with their fore feet."

BURL
(a) An overgrown knot or excrescence in walnut and other woods, used in veneering. Also, a log or piece of timber containing such a knot. Also, a veneer made with this wood. "The ash burls avoid the necessity of a stay lag by having a sufficient part of the trunk on which the burl grew left to serve for this purpose."

GALABYA
(a) A smock-like garment worn in Arabic-speaking Mediterranean countries. From the Arabic *galabiyah*, the popular equivalent of *jubbah*. "The Egyptian working man in the towns rustles a few more notes in his trouser (no longer let us make it passing, his *galabiyah*) pocket."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Bht1 Kd7 (1... Kf8 2 e7+ and wins) 2 Qd2 Nd2 3 e7 and the pawn promotes.

VOGELSTRAUBS METAL HOLDINGS LIMITED
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
(Registration No. 4040346/06)

Interim Report for the six months ended 31 December 1997

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT		CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET	
6m months ended	3m months ended	31 Dec 1997	31 Dec 1996
Revenue	11 344	20 903	20 903
Income from investments	11 344	20 903	20 903
Surplus on realisation of investments	11 344	20 903	20 903
Taxnet revenue	1 739	1 739	1 739
Dividend received	1 739	1 739	1 739
Expenditure and amounts written off	11 344	20 903	20 903
Administration and general	837	837	837
Amount written off	837	837	837
Profit before tax	12 348	10 329	10 329
Tax	312	312	312
Profit after tax	11 929	10 017	10 017
Earnings per share - cents	64	59	59
Headline earnings per share - cents	64	59	59
Dividends - cents	50	50	50
Dividend - RMB	5 318	4 506	4 506
Times covered	2.2	2.2	2.2

DECLARATION OF INTERIM DIVIDEND
Dividend No 102 of 40 cents per share has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 5 February 1998. Dividends will be electronically transferred to members bank of building society accounts on 4 March 1998 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 5 March 1998.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable from the share transfer office and the London office of the company. The register of members will be closed from 7 February to 13 February 1998, inclusive.

On behalf of the board:
J.G. Hopwood (Chairman)
B.A. Day (Director)

15 Fra Street, Johannesburg 2001

16 January 1998

MEMBER OF THE GOLD FIELDS GROUP

http://www.goldfields.co.za

Of coincidence, cozzies and the Chunnel

I was the sort of weekend that sparked all sorts of reminiscences. Such as the day, the best part of 35 years ago, when I had my leopard-print swimming trunks stolen from the beach at East Wittering. Or the afternoon, some 30 years later, when I became one of the first journalists to clamber through the small underground hole that had finally joined the United Kingdom to continental Europe. But these recollections — vivid as they are — are nothing compared to what last night's episode of *The Ambassador* (BBC1) must have sparked in Jack Straw.

"Why the sudden motherly concern?" sneered Nate, the inevitably difficult teenage son of the British Ambassador to Dublin. "Are drugs dangerous — professionally speaking?" Indeed they were. "If it became known that your son had a habit, or worse, that he was peddling, you would be out of here before you could say puff," said the nice man from MI6. Never mind, she could always become Home Secretary.

As I wrote after the first episode, one of the great risks that this Anglo-Irish drama takes is being overtaken by terrible events. For that reason alone, it was nice to see this everyday tale of diplomatic folk overtaken and actually enhanced by events of a less terrible nature. The Ambassador had discovered that her son was working as a waiter at a cafe with close links to Dublin's drug trade. "If I'm convinced he's guilty, I'll go straight to the police," promised Ambassador Smith (Pauline Collins). Mr Straw would have been proud of her.

Three episodes in and I still like this series but, alas, I can see more and more reasons why others may not. I am convinced Collins's performance is realistic, but it cannot be said that Ambassador Smith is much fun, let alone known for the excellence of her hospitality. That piercing stare, the irritating tilt of her head, that even more irritating habit of jumping instantly to conclusions that are right. "Doesn't that suggest she was set-up?" she surmised, within seconds of being given the barest bones of an arrest, made by Irish Customs. Worst of all, there is her really annoying habit of ending each episode with some ghastly homily: "All part of the service," she concluded last night, "helping people." Yuk.

Part of the old-fashioned feel is its scripts, where a single story is followed from beginning to end. This is good news for those who find the modern "multi-stranded" approach difficult to follow (especially on Sunday night) but absolute disaster for an array of secondary characters who have the potential to provide some much-needed brighter moments but instead find themselves stranded, deprived of both subplots and motivation. Does anyone, for instance, know why Stone (Denis Lawson) was grappling with that pretty PA? More important, does anyone care?

I certainly did care about those leopard-print swimming trunks, they were my 10-year-old pride and joy, until some big boy pinched them while I was doing something complicated under a towel. The fact that I still remember the incident I thought made me a strong candidate to enjoy *Picture This Cozzies* (BBC2). There was just one problem. I wasn't a girl.

As well as making a distinctly personal film, Helen Miller, its director and narrator, had made a very girly film. Basically, she talked to her mum, her aunt, a couple of mates and a cross-Channel swimmer about swimsuits and, in particular, their search for that perfect swimsuit. The result was charming and coy. I ought to have sympathised with Belinda, who looked as though she was a sculptor and had never recovered from having her perfect swimsuit (with matching towel) stolen in Portugal. She'd tried umpteen replacements including an expensive one from Harrods that went se-through when wet, and a home-made one that had a less embarrassing but much more dangerous swimming. "It's hopeless for swimming in," confessed its creator. "It gets full of water and you get sucked down to the bottom."

One particularly interesting discovery was that virtually all the women could remember the moment a swimsuit ceased to be something you wore and became something you were self-conscious about. Miller described it as a "rite of passage" and to prove it Belinda got out snapshots of the last time she had felt comfortable wearing a bikini. She was 18. "Oh, you look gorgeous," cooed Miller. "Thank you," blushed Belinda. We at home caught only the briefest glimpse. Told you it was a girly film.

When I made my first journey beneath the Channel it took two hours to get to the midpoint in a noisy, uncomfortable mining tram. These days it takes about ten minutes, making the Channel Tunnel one of the great civilising influences of our time. Other epiphanies were attached to it last night, as *The Tunnel* (BBC2), a three-part series, got very enjoyably underway: "one of the engineering wonders of our age". "Thatcherism in concrete" and, less positively, "a financial Titanic".

There was not much of the gloomy stuff in part one, which captured the prevailing consensus that the tunnel is a good thing and harnessed an enormous cast of politicians, civil servants, bankers, businessmen and builders to tell the story up to the point at which the contract was awarded to the Anglo-French consortium. I was surprised by the political chicanery, fuelled apparently by an awful lot of whisky in the British Embassy in Paris. It seems the main man in Paris was more fun than our fictional woman in Dublin.



Matthew Bond

much-needed brighter moments but instead find themselves stranded, deprived of both subplots and motivation. Does anyone, for instance, know why Stone (Denis Lawson) was grappling with that pretty PA? More important, does anyone care?

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (19884)
 - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (T) (69258)
 - 9.00am *At the Shop* (5550548)
 - 9.25am *Real Rooms* Transforming a Welsh couple's bedroom (5466155)
 - 9.50 *Kilroy* (T) (6574093)
 - 10.30am *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (T) (8782155)
 - 10.55am *The Really Useful Show* (T) (7885513)
 - 11.35am *What Would You Do?* A businesswoman in love with a toyboy on the run from the police (4847616)
 - 12.00pm *News* (T) and weather (7605722)
 - 12.05pm *Call My Bluff* (T) (7393567)
 - 12.35pm *Going for a Song* (7393567)
 - 1.00pm *News* (T) and weather (82345)
 - 1.30pm *Regional News* (T) (6183367)
 - 1.40pm *The Weather Show* (5591258)
 - 1.45pm *Neighbours* (T) (3687161)
 - 2.10pm *Peterson* (T) (5082074)
 - 2.55pm *Women's Best of Blushy Blank* (T) (3012345)
 - 3.30pm *Playdays* (9534074) 3.50pm *The Enchanted Land* (7888191) 4.00pm *Bodger and Badger* (8014345) 4.15pm *Fudge* (362797)
 - 4.35pm *Record Breakers* (Gold) (T) (4103056) 5.00pm *Newsround* (T) (4086123)
 - 5.10pm *Blue Peter* (T) (5115242)
 - 5.35pm *Neighbours* (T) (T) (115229)
 - 6.00pm *News* (T) and weather (161)
 - 6.30pm *Regional News* (513)
 - 7.00pm *This Is Your Life* Michael Aspel invites another unsuspecting personality to take a trip down memory lane (T) (3703)
 - 7.30pm *Watchdog* Healthcheck: Reducing the number of children suffering from asthma; plus: how infections can spread in hospitals (T) (797)
 - 8.00pm *Enders* Sanyal's gut instinct fails to warn him that his little sister could land her leg in the middle of one of his mad schemes (T) (2451)
 - 8.30pm *Enders* A further: Media of Onger Sharon and Tracey have to swallow their pride and beg Doran for assistance (T) (8258)
 - 9.00pm *News* (T) and weather (1180)
 - 9.30pm *Neighbours at War* Highlighting feuds between neighbours (T) (21571)
 - 10.00pm *Panorama* Battle of the Green Belt The future of the English countryside is explored as developers claim that 4.4 million new homes will be needed by the year 2016 (T) (800567)
 - 0.40pm *They Think It's All Over* (T) (583722)
 - 1.15pm *Film '98* with Barry Norman (Kris Kristofferson, *On the Border*, New releases: *Up and Under*, *The Winner* and *I Want Down* also come under scrutiny (T) (513513))
 - 1.30pm *Wales* 11.15pm *Snooker* (804364) 12.00pm *Film '98* with Barry Norman (19885)
 - 12.30pm *Film*: *Villa Rides* (786391)
 - 2.15pm *News* (9549643) 2.30pm *BBC News 24*
 - 1.45pm *Villa Rides* (19885) Action adventure with Yul Brynner, Robert Mitchum, Charles Bronson and Herbert Ross. An American pilot working as a gun-runner for the 1912 Mexican rebels is coerced into joining the fighting. Directed by Buzz Kulik (T) (758971)
 - 1.30pm *Weather* (835082)
 - 1.40pm *BBC News 24*

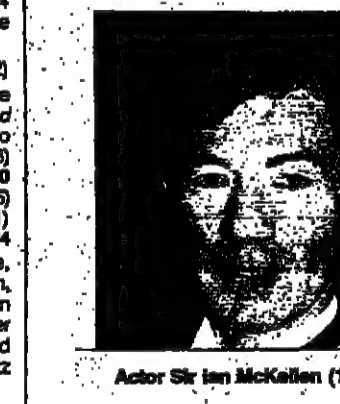
- BBC2**
- 6.35am *Caught in Time* (5223703)
 - 7.00pm *See Hear* Breakfast News (T) and signing (2683063)
 - 7.15pm *Teletubbies* (2528364) 7.40pm *Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch* (5710285) 8.00pm *Blue Peter* (T) (7135458) 8.25pm *Junior Jungle* (8391180) 8.40pm *Orville and Cuddles* (2258571) 8.45pm *Harry and the Hendersons* (4089180)
 - 9.10pm *German Globe* (7080809) 9.15pm *Testament: The Bible in Animation* (177180) 9.45pm *Storyline* (9234619) 10.00pm *Teletubbies* (48277) 10.30pm *Words and Pictures* (8495529) 10.45pm *Cats' Eyes* (6310894) 11.00pm *Look and Read* (2745513) 11.20pm *Zig Zag* (717432)
 - 11.40pm *Landscape* (581170) 12.00pm *Maths File* (1818548) 12.20pm *Working Lunch* (12277) 1.00pm *The GreasySausages Gang* (8991703) 1.05pm *Johnnie* (8991607) 1.10pm *The Travel Hour*. This week from Spain, and today: Andalusia (5644155)
 - 2.10pm *Tennis: Australian Open* The first day's action of the first Grand Slam tennis tournament (4857819) **Wales**: 2.10pm-6.00pm *Snooker* 3.25pm *News* (T) (3502077) 3.30pm *The Village* (819) 4.00pm *Through the Keyhole* (4555513) 4.25pm *Ready Steady Cook* (4559600) 4.55pm *Esther* Children discuss single sex schools (3327109) 5.30pm *Today's the Day* (850)
 - 6.00pm *The Simpsons* (T) (438900)
 - 6.25pm *Esther* *Galactica* (22) (T) (522277)
 - 7.15pm *Radical High* (T) (631155)
 - 7.30pm *Compas: Who is in the Difference* Could Britain be about to be put to shame by the economy of France? (T) (567)
 - 8.00pm *Disaster: A Cut Price Tragedy* The 1986 Valujet airliner crash in Florida (T) (4203)
 - 8.30pm *Kari Hom* Travels with a Hot Wok in Singapore (T) (8600)
 - 9.00pm *Looking After Jo* Working Week! The recently acquired Jo Jo is drawn to dealing heroin (24) (T) (258908)
 - 9.30pm *Trade Secrets* (84597)
 - 10.00pm *Goodness* Gracious Me Asian sketch show (87093)
 - 10.30pm *Newsnight* (T) (104513)

- HTV**
- 6.00am *GMTV* (883451)
 - 9.25pm *Win, Lose or Draw* (T) (5548703)
 - 9.55pm *Regional News* (582800)
 - 10.00pm *The Time, the Place* (T) (35703)
 - 10.30pm *This Morning* (T) (50277906)
 - 12.20pm *Regional News* (761908)
 - 12.30pm *News* (T) and weather (7583834)
 - 12.55pm *Wales: Gwynedd* (T) (7491155) 12.55pm *Wales: Gwynedd* (T) (7491155) 1.25pm *Home and Away* (T) (713707)
 - 1.50pm *Wales: Pembrokeshire* (3987372)
 - 1.50pm *Wales: Pembrokeshire* (3987372) 2.00pm *Van Can Cook: The Best of China* (T) (7200334)
 - 2.50pm *Wales: The Poles* (T) (5334908)
 - 2.50pm *West Foot* Forward: City Pilgrimage (3334908)
 - 3.20pm *News* (T) (254432)
 - 3.25pm *Regional News* (5547703)
 - 3.30pm *Roast and Jell* (5835567) 3.40pm *Toddycrabs* (8777703) 3.50pm *The Animal Show* (575155) 4.05pm *Sooty's Amazing Adventures* (T) (820277) 4.15pm *Adam's Family Tree* (T) (230345) 4.45pm *Art Attack* (T) (1342828)
 - 5.10pm *Wales: The House* (T) (7024109)
 - 5.10pm *Under Currents: Why Do We All Hate Students?* (7024109)
 - 5.40pm *News* (T) and weather (107835)
 - 6.00pm *Home and Away* (T) (7432425)
 - 6.25pm *Regional Weather* (148722)
 - 6.30pm *Regional News* (T) (109)
 - 7.00pm *Wish You Were Here?* Archaic Turner visits Pangkor Laut off the coast of Malaysia. Ian Fletcher and Ray Ashcroft from *The Bill* investigate Turkey (T) (5871)
 - 7.30pm *Coronation Street* Ken tries to lift Delora's spirit (T) (203)
 - 8.00pm *World in Action* Is the American way of death catching on in Britain? (T) (4819)
 - 8.30pm *Behind the Scenes* of the *Selected Movie Agency* (T) (8648)
 - 9.00pm *Peak Practice* A Matter of Principle As David battles to give a young boy with the terrible syndrome a life-saving operation, he receives shocking news on the domestic front (T) (6451)
 - 10.00pm *News* (T) and weather (81819)
 - 10.30pm *Regional News* (572354)

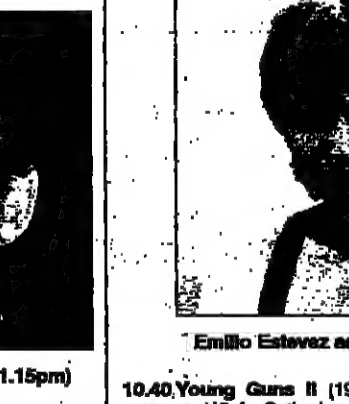
- CENTRAL**
- As *HTV West* except:
 - 12.55pm-1.25pm *A Country Practice* (7491155)
 - 1.50pm *Blue Peter* (1033616)
 - 2.50pm-3.20pm *High Road* (3334908)
 - 5.10pm-5.40pm *Shortland Street* (7024109)
 - 6.25pm-7.00pm *Central News* (733838)
 - 12.35pm *Football Extra* (8615317)
 - 3.20pm *The Time, the Place* (5611730)
 - 4.15pm *Central Jobfinder* (87488372)
 - 5.20pm *Asian Eye* (1418310)
- WEST COUNTRY**
- As *HTV West* except:
 - 12.20pm-12.30pm *Illustrations* (7601908)
 - 12.55pm *Home and Away* (7491155)
 - 1.25pm *High Road* (1121797)
 - 1.55pm *Murder, She Wrote* (1071635)
 - 2.50pm-3.20pm *Gardeners' Diary* (3334908)
 - 5.10pm-5.40pm *Home and Away* (7024109)
 - 6.00pm-7.00pm *Westcountry Live* (17722)
- ASHTON**
- As *HTV West* except:
 - 12.55pm-1.25pm *Shortland Street* (7491155)
 - 1.50pm *Look and Cook* (1975548)
 - 2.25pm-3.20pm *Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman* (2928428)
 - 5.10pm-5.40pm *Home and Away* (7024109)
 - 6.00pm *Meridian Tonight* (529)
 - 6.30pm-7.00pm *Country Ways* (109)
 - 6.00pm *FreeScreen* (7310)
- ASHTON**
- As *HTV West* except:
 - 12.55pm-1.25pm *What's My Line?* (7491155)
 - 1.55pm *Bringing Up Baby* (3987203)
 - 2.25pm-3.20pm *Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman* (2928428)
 - 5.10pm-5.40pm *Shortland Street* (7024109)
 - 6.25pm *Anglia Weather* (147451)
 - 6.25pm-7.00pm *Anglia News* (733838)
 - 10.29pm *Anglia At Watch* (846726)
- Starts: 7.00pm The Big Breakfast** (89063)
- 9.00pm *Yagobon* (207513)
 - 11.30pm *Springhill* (9155)
 - 12.00pm *Right to Reply* (71432)
 - 12.30pm *Sesame Street* (45085)
 - 1.00pm *Spot Melthill* (2732364)
 - 1.15pm *MHR* (2737519)
 - 1.30pm *Team* (16258)
 - 2.30pm *Raging Planet* (58800)
 - 3.30pm *Collectors' Lot* (987)
 - 4.00pm *Fifteen-to-One* (722)
 - 4.30pm *Countdown* (908)
 - 5.00pm *Sumo* (4598703)
 - 5.15pm *Fill* (509278)
 - 5.30pm *Mrs Cohen's Money* (258)
 - 6.00pm *Newyddion* (898500)
 - 6.10pm *Home* (567722)
 - 7.00pm *Pobol y Cwm* (446616)
 - 7.25pm *Terminal 3* (644890)
 - 8.00pm *Lwyfan* (5161)
 - 8.30pm *Newyddion* (8068)
 - 9.00pm *Y Byd Ar Bedwar* (4890)
 - 9.30pm *Sgorio* (7564242)
 - 11.30pm *Heroes of Comedy: Peter Cook* (50722)
 - 12.30pm *Portman TV* (84865)
 - 1.00pm-2.00pm *Hard Lessons* (55575)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am *Sesame Street* (51782)
 - 7.00pm *The Big Breakfast* (89068)
 - 9.00pm *Schools: The English Programme* (T) (5543258) 9.25pm *Schools at Work* (7886529) 9.30pm *Geography Junction* (T) (8224432) 9.45pm *Book Box* (T) (2559987)
 - 10.00pm *Stage Two Science* (T) (2553787)
 - 10.15pm *Rel-a-Tot* (2654543) 10.30pm *Place and People* (T) (4521153) 10.50pm *Stop, Look and Listen* (T) (4800387)
 - 11.00pm *Back Tracks* (T) (7235884) 11.15pm *The Mix* (T) (1366635)
 - 11.30pm *Springhill* (T) (9155)
 - 12.00pm *Sesame Street* (71432)
 - 12.30pm *Light Lunch* Paul Marrett joins Mel and Sue to cook lunch (15529)
 - 1.30pm *These Three* (1936, b/w) Miriam Hopkins and Merle Oberon star in the film adaptation of Lillian Hellman's play *The Children's Hour*. The relationship between two teachers is tested when a pupil invents a scandal. Directed by William Wyler (T) (2064508)
 - 3.10pm *Lamming Aid* (8614797) 3.30pm *Collectors' Lot* (T) (987) 4.00pm *Fifteen-to-One* (T) (722) 4.30pm *Countdown* (T) (8192105) 4.55pm *Montel Williams: My Parents Embarrass My Boyfriend* (T) (3312277) 5.30pm *Pet Rescue* (T) (658)
 - 6.00pm *MovieWatch* Reviews of *Titanic*, *The Winner* and *Sweethearts* (971)
 - 6.30pm *Hollyoaks* Cindy gives her mother an ultimatum (T) (451)
 - 7.00pm *Channel 4 News* (T) (947884)
 - 7.55pm *Things to Come* Beverly Skeggs of Lancaster University considers feminism (417797)
 - 8.00pm *The Ship* (1/6) Fly-on-the-wall documentary about the men of the Swan Hunter shipyard (T) (5161)
 - 8.30pm *Classic Plant* Diggers First in a new series, following *Classic Trains*, about the development of ever more powerful plant machinery. Tonight, the evolution of diggers, from the use of newbies between the wars to the machines of the 1940s to the birth of the JCB in the 1960s (T) (8068)

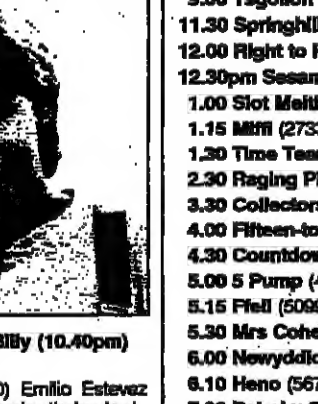
- CHANNEL 5**
- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am *5 News Early* (8381782)
 - 7.00pm *Exclusive* (T) (8662797) 7.30pm *Milshakel* (7871432) 7.35pm *Adventures of the Bush Patrol* (T) (1845677) 8.00pm *Havakazoo* (T) (781426) 8.30pm *Wildlife*. The women of South Africa's *Nobels* (T) (716787)
 - 9.00pm *Espresso* (1563242) 9.55pm *The Hot Zone* (T) (7882777) 10.30pm *Sunset Beach* (T) (4324613) 11.10pm *Leza* (8617971)
 - 12.00am *5 News* (T) (7610513) 12.30pm *Family Affairs* (T) (T) (4786141) 1.00pm *The Bold and the Beautiful* (T) (8861088) 1.30pm *Vanessa's Day With...* Antony Wormald-Thompson (T) (5136892) 2.00pm *5's Company* (845487)
 - 3.30pm *The Awakening* (1989) Romantic drama with Cynthia Geary, David Bescott and Sheila McKechnie. A woman's structured life is turned upside-down by an irreverent bountiful nurse. Directed by George Bloomfield (4986797)
 - 5.20pm *Russell Grant's Postcards* Russell visits Preston Manor, Sussex (7884242)
 - 5.30pm *Exclusive* Entertainment news (8719806)
 - 6.00pm *100 Per Cent* (8716819)
 - 6.30pm *Family Affairs* Elan is delighted by the thought of becoming a grandmother. Holly plans to become a stepmother in *The Look* (T) (8627371)
 - 7.00pm *5 News* (T) (5805468)
 - 7.30pm *The Hot Zone* Documentary examining the Saguaro, an eight-ton cactus from the Arizona desert (T) (8623155)
 - 8.00pm *Hot Property* Sandy Mitchell and the team search for an executive home in Lincolnshire (T) (8493086)



Actor Sir Ian McKellen (11.15pm)



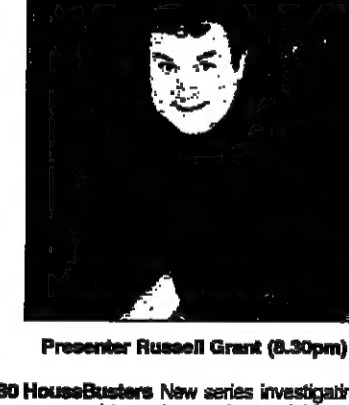
Emilio Estevez as Billy (10.40pm)



William Powell, Myrna Loy in *The Thin Man* (TNT, 1.30am)



Dudley Moore, Peter Cook (9.00pm)



Presenter Russell Grant (8.30pm)

- For further listings see**
- TV 1**
- 0am *Street Sharks* (82138) 7.30pm *The Spoils* (15481) 8.00pm *Bump in the Night* (26049) 8.15pm *Quest* (584352) 8.30pm *Spice* (80864) 10.00pm *Another World* (55) 11.00pm *Days of Our Lives* (26971) 12.00pm *Murphy Brown* (89466)
 - 1am *M*A*S*H* (1957) 1.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 1.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 2.00pm *Jerry Springer* (4028) 2.30pm *Jenny Holm* (4028) 3.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 3.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 4.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 4.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 5.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 5.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 6.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 6.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 7.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 7.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 8.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 8.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 9.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 9.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 10.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 10.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 11.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 11.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 12.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 12.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 1.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 1.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 1.50am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 2.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 2.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 3.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 3.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 4.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 4.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 5.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 5.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 6.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 6.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 7.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 7.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 8.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 8.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 9.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 9.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 10.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 10.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 11.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 11.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 12.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 12.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 1.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 1.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 1.50am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 2.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 2.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 3.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 3.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 4.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 4.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 5.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 5.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 6.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 6.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 7.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 7.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 8.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 8.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 9.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 9.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 10.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 10.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 11.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 11.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 12.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 12.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 1.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 1.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 1.50am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 2.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 2.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 3.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 3.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 4.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 4.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 5.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 5.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 6.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 6.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 7.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 7.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 8.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 8.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 9.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 9.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 10.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 10.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 11.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 11.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 12.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 12.30pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 1.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 1.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 1.50am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 2.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (85157) 2.30am *Star Trek: Voyager*

